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Prince

The sudden death, lasting legacy of an icon

1958 — 2016

metroLIFE

Prince performs at the Met Center in Minneapolis in 1983. DAVID BREWSTER/STAR TRIBUNE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Transit to aid the vulnerable

CITY SERVICES

Peace officers to transport mental health patients

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Calgary Transit's peace officers are no strangers to vulnerable populations. But when it comes to helping them directly, their hands are tied.

If a Calgary Transit peace officer sees someone in mental distress they throw a call to CPS, who are required by the province's mental health act to issue a "Form 10." That means police take the patient under custody and bring them to a hospital to be treated by a doctor. CPS officers must remain with the individual until they are handed over to medical staff.

Brian Whitelaw, Calgary Transit's coordinator of public safety and enforcement, said there are plans in the works to have peace officers perform duties just like police and get people help they need sooner.

"We just come across so many people that have mental health and substance issues that require immediate attention," said Whitelaw. "Sometimes they pose a risk to themselves and want to jump in front of a train or something.

"If we can intervene and transport them to a hospital, get them dialed in, that's going to be a longer lasting approach to reducing the risk of tragedy on the system."

It's an initiative that will take some responsibility off CPS's plate, but Whitelaw noted it's a double edged sword, and peace officers run the risk of being away from the transit system for long periods of time.

Rick Lundy, founder of Open Arms Patient Advocacy Society, said it's a positive move, as long as hospitals aren't flooded with mental health patients, because as it is, they're at capacity.

"We've all been around transit and know it's a place where people with mental illness hang out."

Lundy said it only makes sense, efficiency-wise, that peace officers can free up time for police instead of waiting and finding patients treatment faster.

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Getting hitched? Break out the champagne ... and break the bank. **Business**

The goat-to solution

ISTOCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

GRAZING

City's alternative to herbicides

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

You've goat to be kid-ding me! Well, we're not.

The City of Calgary is in talks with a shepherd and her professional dogs to bring a small herd — about 100 goats — to a park and put them to work. The grazers will be targeting the Canada thistle and other weeds as a green alternative to herbicides in Confluence Park.

"It's not that uncommon any more. Grazing is being used more and more frequently in urban areas and in general just as a way to manage landscapes," said Chris Manderson, urban conservation lead for Calgary Parks. "There's some interesting stuff happening in the U.S. — heck, you can even order goats through Amazon in the U.S. now."

The shepherd will introduce the flock in the next couple of months and collect data on their work — fine or foul. That information will then be reported back to council in hopes of allowing the city's parks department to add goats to their toolbox.

But don't be fooled. This doesn't mean you can trade in a lawnmower for a grass muncher this summer. Manderson said it wasn't easy to find the perfect spot to try out the proof-of-concept. City's current land-use bylaws don't allow for livestock in city limits — but his team found a loophole.

"There are some land uses that allow that in the city, because there are farms on the outside of the city that allow agriculture," Manderson said. He noted part of Confluence Park, where the pilot project is slated to happen, was never redesigned as a park and allows livestock.

Ward 9 Coun. Gian-Carlo Carra said he's heard several complaints from constituents about using chemicals to get rid of unwanted weeds. He welcomes the pilot and its results.

"The idea that we can go into our green spaces with a herd of goats and do the weed control in that natural way is a very, very exciting proposition," Carra said. "Let's see if the pilot works, and that will just give us more opportunity and ammunition to address these regulations."

Herd not the answer in Salem

The grass isn't always greener when you ditch mowing equipment and opt for livestock instead.

The City of Salem, Ore. recently had a herd of unemployed goats on its hands after it fired the expensive team for damaging trees, raising a stink and eating native plants — all for a contracted price of $14,475.

After completing a pilot on one of their parks, the findings showed in that location, the city could have paid inmate workers, or mowed the stretch for $3,370 — or about one-fifth of the pilot project cost.

A report written by the city's assistant public works director Robert Chandler, said although the goats were universally welcomed by park users, goats were drawn to the bark of maple and hazelnut trees. They also were devouring native plants.

But the report hinted the city wasn't done with goat grazers just yet. HELEN PIKE/METRO

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*SOME CONDITIONS MAY APPLY.

Primary Care Networks may see some changes when the government introduces an action plan in the coming months. JEREMY SIMES / FOR METRO

Changes coming for family doctors

PROVINCE

Centralized IT, prevention, targeted care all on table

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

In the coming months, the Alberta government will introduce an action plan that revamps the province's family doctor services.

Though Health Minister Sarah Hoffman said the plan is still in the works, documents obtained by Metro show Alberta Health identified five key strategic directions and preliminary actions that are being considered to improve the province's Primary Care Networks (PCNs).

Minister Hoffman said the strategic direction priorities are high-level objectives.

"When we're talking about creating some of the change that's required in the evolution of primary care, these are important for us to talk about with our community and delivery partners," she said.

In the drafted document, key topics within the strategic directions presented to stakeholders included developing a single information management and information technology system; aligning funding, infrastructure and services to better match population health needs; and designing and implementing funding models that promote collaboration and the use of the most appropriate providers, among others.

Hoffman said increasing return on investment is also one of the government's strategic directions.

"I know that there's been some desire from community to look at the way we're allocating funds," she said. "We want to make sure we're in dialogue and aligning resources as effectively as possible."

The document said most stakeholders suggest PCNs don't need more funding but rather funds need to be better distributed. Stakeholders also highlighted the need for more local decision-making, integration of social and health services and improve data collection.

Dr. Carl Nohr, president of the Alberta Medical Association, said he's in general agreement with the government's strategies. "We need to move into an era where we do health care with patients," he said. "I support the comments about shifting funding in primary care. We have an acute care system that's costly, so the solution is going to be more prevention. So to accomplish that, we need to shift funding into those areas."

Hoffman said Alberta Health hasn't determined when the PCN action plan will specifically roll out.

"This continues to be ongoing work," she said.

"We're obviously working to get the right report before having it on a specific date. We want to make sure we get the right information."

CRIME

Man dies, police classify as homicide

Calgary police have one man in custody in relation to an alleged liquor store homicide from late last month.

On March 24, just before 11 a.m., three men had a confrontation while exiting a liquor store in the 15500 block of McIvor Boulevard SE. During the confrontation, police believe one of the men punched another — causing the victim to lose consciousness and strike his head on the pavement.

The victim was taken to hospital in serious condition and later died from his injuries on April 11, at which point the investigation was upgraded from an assault investigation to a homicide investigation. This may be Calgary's fifth homicide of 2016.

Police have identified the victim at Peter William Nassichuk, 37, of Calgary.

Police have a suspect in custody and charges are pending.

Anyone with information on this incident is asked to call the Calgary Police Service non-emergency line at 403-266-1234. METRO

The remains of a burnt-out vehicle in the Ghost River Forest Reserve. Hundreds go there for backcountry camping – as well as target practice – each weekend, according to local residents.
SUBMITTED

ONLINE SECURITY

Put passwords on your cameras: Police

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

In-home security cameras are meant for you to keep an eye on your home and loved ones but, if you're not careful, almost anyone could be watching.

Const. Jeremy Shaw, with the Calgary police digital communications team, said this issue recently came to his attention after a message was received from a woman in Texas saying she'd downloaded an app listing available security cameras on the internet and noticed one was in Calgary.

"She sent a message to the CPS Facebook page and said, 'just so you know, there appears to be a family in your jurisdiction that is being stalked through the Internet,'" he said.

Shaw said after receiving the message he also downloaded the app and found a few other camera feeds coming from Calgary.

Shaw said there are multiple apps and websites where these feeds can be viewed. Although some people purposely broadcast their feeds, he added, there are ways to make sure your security cameras are private by protecting your IP address.

"Password-protecting your software is important," he said. "People don't tend to change the default passwords, so if everybody buys the same camera from Costco, the password will be the same."

"Anybody on the internet who happens to figure out the IP address of that camera can then put in those passwords and then have the ability to pan, tilt and zoom that camera," he added.

Shaw said baby monitors often use internet, as well — which open them up to the same hacks. "It's creepy to think a stranger could be watching your baby."

Outcry over Ghost Valley 'lawlessness'

FOREST RESERVE

Backcountry plagued by campers' trash, target shooting

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Head to Ghost Valley on any given weekend and you're more likely to hear gunshots and explosions than the sounds of nature.

That's according to residents of the area, who are speaking out as a group in hopes of finding a solution to the problem.

Metro spoke with the group's spokesman who asked not to be named, for fear of reprisal.

He said random backcountry camping is allowed in the Ghost River Forest Reserve, which is northeast of Banff, but a lack of oversight has attracted campers who aren't there for a walk in the woods.

"It's like it's become a zone of utter lawlessness," said the resident.

> **We're not even comfortable walking on our own property.**
> Ghost Valley resident

He said on weekends the roads leading into the area are bumper to bumper with vehicles. The noise is non-stop through the night.

The group provided photos of burnt out vehicles, exploded propane tanks, and piles of spent shotgun shells left on the ground.

"We're not even comfortable walking on our own property," said the resident. He said people have been seen carelessly brandishing rifles and shotguns just outside private property.

All the gunplay has residents concerned about the potential for forest fires – especially as campers use legally-purchased exploding targets.

One fire in the area was already extinguished by crews on April 9.

Cameron Westhead, MLA for Banff-Cochrane, said he's heard concerns from residents about gunshots, garbage, and even human waste, as well as the forest fires.

He said he's been talking to Minister Shannon Phillips about the issue and he's encouraging residents to submit complaints to him or the minister.

Sunalta residents still seek creosote cleanup

CALGARYNEXT

Project shone a light on the need for remediation

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

The area proposed for the CalgaryNEXT project currently has several car dealerships and the Greyhound bus station, as well as 13 acres of contaminated land. BRODIE THOMAS/METRO

Folks in Sunalta didn't even have time to come up with an opinion on CalgaryNEXT before the proposal was all but nixed by the city.

The CalgaryNEXT proposal would see a replacement arena for the Saddledome as well as a multi-sport fieldhouse near the Bow River in the community of Sunalta.

On Wednesday, the city released a report suggesting the proposal wasn't feasible.

Tom Naested, president of the Sunalta Community Association, said his board was brought up to speed on the project in a meeting with Ken King, but that was as far as it went.

"There was information provided and the opportunity for us to give our fears and concerns and such, but certainly there wasn't any actionable engagements," he said. "I think as a community association board — we wanted to be at the table — but being for or against (the project) wasn't even an option at that stage."

Naested said the board wanted to make sure the community was protected if the project went ahead. Now that it seems to be done, there's one issue that isn't going away.

"The biggest thing that came out of this was the whole creosote issue," he said. "The fact that we have poisoned, dead land in the middle of Calgary seems rather ridiculous to anyone who hears it."

He said the issue has been overlooked, and still needs to be rectified.

Naested said now that CalgaryNEXT has gone back to the drawing board, he expects the cleanup will take even longer.

"I think there's a fear on our end that this won't get cleaned up, so regardless of the direction that CalgaryNEXT goes, we will be pushing anybody who will listen to try to remedy that situation."

He said what gets developed on the land is a secondary issue to getting the creosote cleaned up.

Area Coun. Evan Woolley said the West Village still has an Area Redevelopment Plan in place and he wants to see that move forward.

"The Flames' proposal shone a bright light on the West Village that — since 2012 — had been put on the back burner," he said. "We've always said with or without the arena proposal — we're keen to move forward on redevelopment of West Village."

> "I think there's a fear on our end that this won't get cleaned up."
> Tom Naested

SPORTS

Flames open to new arena options

Darren Krause
Metro | Calgary

The president of the Calgary Sports and Entertainment Corporation (CSEC) said they'll be "thoughtful and deliberate" in their response to the city's analysis of the CalgaryNext project.

A city review of the proposed arena, stadium and fieldhouse project deemed it "not feasible" because of both the location and the expected $1.83-billion cost. The city estimated that $1.3 billion of that total would fall on the backs of Calgary taxpayers.

The city report will be debated by councillors at Monday's council meeting.

CSEC president Ken King said they couldn't speculate at this time on possible other site options for CalgaryNEXT as they haven't explored — or been presented — any alternatives.

"I think it would only be fair for us to keep an open mind and entertain anyone's view of an alternate," said King.

As for the cost, King said their original $890 million pitch was primarily for the sporting infrastructure, as they believed the West Village — and the associated costs — were already in the city's future development plans.

"The underlying tenets of our proposal assumed the following things: the fieldhouse would be built, the contamination will be remediated and the West Village would be developed at some time," King said.

"If one of those three are deemed not to happen then we have a fatally flawed proposal.

"But I think they're all going to happen at some point."

King said he'd like to let the review "steep" for a bit, and they'll watch how the council discussion unfolds Monday.

Alberta labs can't detect killer drug

TOXICOLOGY

Officials sound alarm after W-18 seizure

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Despite having the latest and greatest tech, the newest killer drug — W-18 — is so potent that provincial labs can't detect it, according to an Alberta toxicologist.

Health and police officials have sounded alarms over the W-18 — said to be 100 times more toxic than fentanyl — after Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams confirmed on Tuesday they seized the legal drug in December.

Dr. Penny Colbourne, clinical toxicologist at the University of Alberta hospital, said major labs in Edmonton and Calgary virtually can't test for W-18 because concentrations are so low, as very little of the drug can kill a person.

"Even though we have that standard in our library — and if we saw it, we could match it — the problem is that the concentrations in urine get so, so low that practically you can't see (W-18)," she said.

Another reason for it to be essentially undetectable is that standards for W-18 metabolites — or breakdown products that attack the drug when it's in someone's system — don't exist, Colbourne said.

"There hasn't been any real, good human study done on the fate of W-18 in the body," she said. "We can understand why because nobody is going to sign up for a study that can potentially kill them."

And although W-18 won't likely be detected in labs, Colbourne emphasized doctors in emergency rooms will still treat suspected W-18 overdoses like any opioid overdose.

"If you present to emergency and you're having trouble, your treatment is not going to be affected by whether or not we can test for the drug."

> **There hasn't been any real, good human study done.**
> Dr. Penny Colbourne

Justice Minister and Solicitor General Kathleen Ganley said she will likely support the Tory's Bill 205. SUBMITTED

DRUG TRADE

NDP may support ban on pill presses

Alberta's Justice Minister says she will likely support a Tory private member's bill that hopes to put a dent in the illegal drug trade by restricting ownership on pill-pressing machines.

The bill, presented by Progressive Conservative Mike Ellis, requires people to have a license to own a pill machine. If caught without a license to own, the violator would face a $50,000 fine or up to six months jail time.

Though she expressed support, Minister Ganley said it would be more effective if the federal government made owning pill presses a criminal offence nationwide.

She said the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police has asked the NDP to go to the federal government for criminal sanctions against illegal pill pressing.

"I think having an extra tool wouldn't necessarily be bad," she said. "But what we don't want is for that to take pressure off the federal government to act because we think that we need a country-wide sanction."

Ellis, Justice Critic for the Progressive Conservatives, was unavailable to comment by press time.

Ganley said federal criminal sanctions would be far more effective than a $50,000 fine.

"We will be supportive," she said. "We still think that ultimately we need those higher sanctions from the federal government. What we don't want is for that to send a message to the federal government that we think we've solved the problem."

On Wednesday, Ellis championed the bill for being the first of its kind in Canada.

"Like any good investigator I did my research, and I discovered that there was one common thread when any drug bust was occurring, and the pill press was it," he said.

"So if we can (make) an impact in the distribution and manufacturing of this drug, then we're doing a good thing, we're saving lives."

Alberta College of Pharmacists President Rick Hackman said he supports the bill, which would amend the Pharmacy and Drug Act.

JEREMY SIMES/FOR METRO

Goodnight, sweet Prince: Calgarians

TRIBUTE

Star's unique style, shy ways remembered

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

The doves are crying; pop superstar Prince has died at the age 57, but his legacy, the power of his music and his image live on with his impact on Calgarians.

"I've been queer my whole life, but I didn't always have a name for it," said Chasia Lloyd. "I grew up watching Prince in music videos proudly rock his fabulous hair, sequins and eyeliner — I knew he was different, too."

Lloyd said her musical idols taught her it's OK to fall outside of society's traditional gender roles and sexuality binaries — and Prince was a shining beacon to her.

"He and his music were there when I had few other sources to turn to while questioning myself."

Not every reaction to Prince was a positive one. Fan Marvin Matthews said he is about the same age as Prince, and the first time he saw the music icon was in a TV interview on American Bandstand in 1982.

"And he just pissed me off, because he was very standoffish, very rude to Dick Clark, and I remember thinking, 'Who the heck is this guy?' " recalled Matthews.

But a few years later, Matthews read that Prince was notoriously shy during interviews, which explained his behaviour. A few albums later, a Matthews was a fan, praising the dichotomy between sexual and spiritual themes in his music.

"He was a modern-day Marvin Gaye to me."

Calgarian Marcella Munro had a personal brush with Prince when living in Toronto.

She was at her staff Christmas party, held in a club, in the early evening, when the back door flung open and two burly men walked through.

> **He wasn't a diva at all.**
> Marcella Munro, on her brush with the star

Munro said walking in behind them was this little guy.

"We realized, it was Prince," said Munro. "Like, holy f—kin' sh—."

After getting over the initial shock, she realized Prince wasn't anything like she expected.

"He wasn't a diva at all," she said. "They actually seemed kind of embarrassed they busted in on this private party."

Prince and his group asked if they could grab a drink in one of the private rooms upstairs. Munro said she didn't have the guts to approach him, but a few friends did. What she remembers most is just how chill a guy he was.

Prince was admired in Calgary both for his music and his status as a performer who wasn't afraid to blur the gender lines. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Expert gets right to the point

HISTORICAL COMBAT

Sword mightier than pen as pro crushes fantasy misconceptions

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

These combat professionals say swordplay is more like a martial art than the slow hacking seen in film. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Jamie Ripley has some pointed words for people who walk into his workshop, pick up a sword and hope to charge into battle, swinging like Aragorn, son of Arathorn.

"There's still a lot of people out there who think that western swordsmanship was nothing more than drunken Vikings brawling," said Ripley. "That wasn't that case; it was a very sophisticated, efficient system of killing another human being and trying to stay alive."

Ripley creates and imports high-quality swords in his Calgary shop Dark Age Creations, where he also hosts swordplay lessons and a weekly Wednesday Fight Knight event. Ripley's goal is to show people that, one, swordplay is a real thing that anyone can take up and learn; and two, there is a strong martial-arts component to it.

While Hollywood wants to make things look flashy — even in historical shows, characters take big, wide swings because they look cooler on film — the real thing is more quick and dirty. It's all about footwork, posture, tempo and muscle memory — the cornerstones of every martial art, he said.

Craig Greer — who was one of the first students of Fight Knight, which began just over six months ago — said that when he first came in, he treated the sword like a baseball bat. His gut instinct was to swing from the shoulder.

"You realize very quickly that's really slow, easily telegraphed; someone can counter it," he said. "You can't just swing for the fences and hope for the best."

> **It was a very sophisticated, efficient system of killing another human being.**
> Jamie Ripley

Luckily for Greer, a bad swing is nothing to lose your head over.

The group takes safety very seriously. The swords aren't sharp enough to lop off an arm, and they wear the proper safety gear, from historical armour to modern fencing equipment.

"Certainly we see our fair share of bumps and bruises," said Ripley. "But I've never seen anyone get any worse injury than what you see in hockey players or football players."

The sport brings in a range of different people — from those looking to explore a real martial art to people with a interest in history to live-action role players looking to up their swordsmanship game.

For Greer, he said it's honestly a great way for him to keep in shape — that, and he loves the welcoming community that's grown around the weekly Wednesday swordplay event.

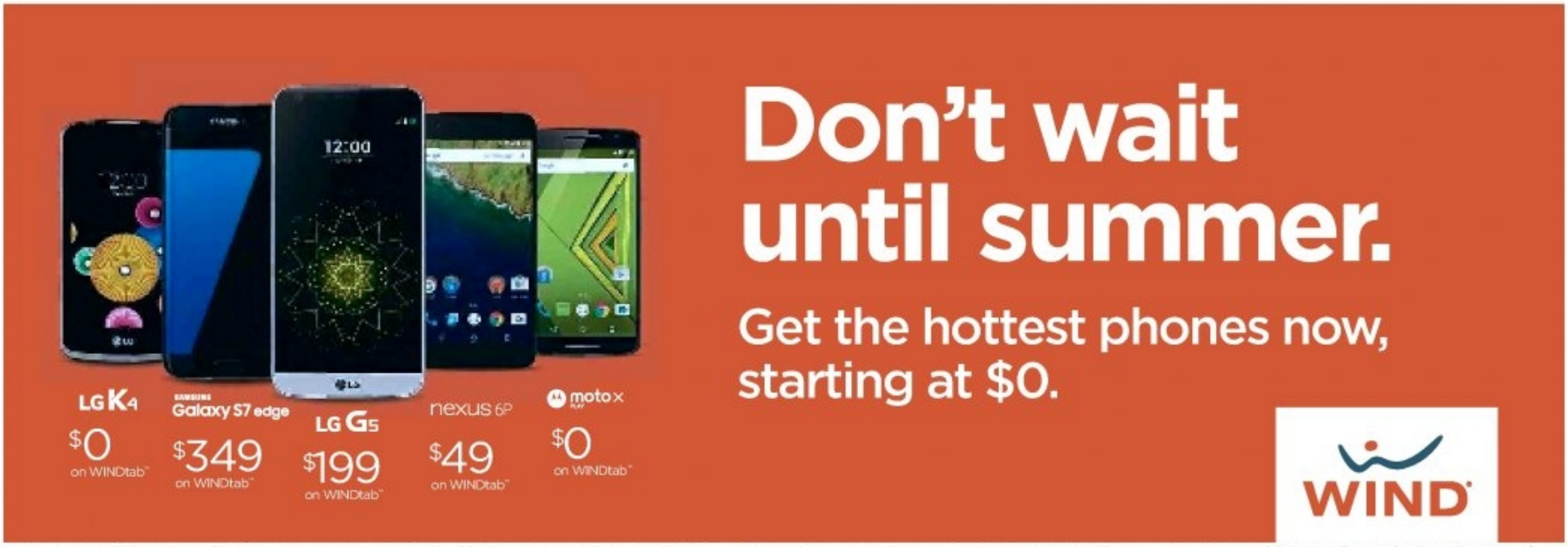
Ripley said anyone is welcome to drop by but recommends absolute beginners try one of their weekend classes first to learn the basics and see what kinds of weapons are available, from long swords to Viking swords and shields to daggers and katanas. The basics are all the same though, Ripley said. The body can only bend in so many ways.

For more information, visit darkagecreations.com.

EQUIPMENT

Dark Age Creations takes its sword imports and creation seriously.

- Many sword makers go for looks, using stainless steel. While it makes for a nice-looking sword, it's not very sturdy. Owner Jamie Ripley has seen blades knocked clean off the hilt.
- A good sword is made out of high-carbon steel that goes through into the hilt. Ripley said the proper term is "full tang." These are meant to last under strain and stress.



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EDUCATION

Study confirms high workload of Alberta teachers

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

According to the Alberta Teacher's Association president, data released by an independent study has confirmed what they already knew — but it's what they can do with the information that is meaningful.

ATA president Mark Ramsankar said the Malatest study looked at the workload for Alberta teachers — and showed they have the second-highest workload in the world, behind only Japan.

"We've known for a long time that the workload teachers have been under in Alberta is quite high. What we're trying to do is shed some more light on that," he said.

The Malatest study had 3,400 teachers in Alberta participate by keeping diaries of their work and found that the typical teacher week involves 48 hours of professional work.

Ramsankar said he hopes the results of the $500,000 government commissioned study will allow them to begin acting as a cohesive unit with both government and school boards to alleviate the conditions causing distractions and therefore an increased workload for teachers.

"We're legally obligated to teach, record and report to parents," he said.

"What we're finding is there are new and improved ways to continue to report and record and it's taking up more and more of our time and away from the actual classroom duties."

Ramsankar said the hope is to enter the upcoming round of teacher contact negotiations and talk about conditions of practice.

"Many teachers have talked about the lack of resources and time to be able to do the work that is supposed to be their focal point — working with the children," he said.

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Coun. Peter Demong wants the city to start thinking about commercial drones, and what impacts they could have on city residents. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Self-driving study sought

TECHNOLOGY

Councillors want city ready for impacts on transit

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Two councillors are asking the city to take a serious look at drone-delivery systems, self-driving cars and even bitcoin.

In a notice of motion going before council Monday, Couns. Evan Woolley and Peter Demong will request administration prepare a study on advanced technologies, specifically as they relate to transportation.

Demong said he's both concerned and fascinated by the potential of autonomous cars, and he thinks administration needs to be prepared if the technology reaches a tipping point.

"Let's not kid ourselves," said Demong.

"Ten years ago, nobody knew what a smartphone was — and does anybody not have one now?"

He said autonomous vehicles could have a huge effect on the current transit system. He imagines demand for both buses and the CTrain could drop if people's vehicles could return home for the day, instead of requiring a parking spot.

He expects that regulations about autonomous vehicles will be a provincial issue, but the city could find itself having to come up with regulations on drones if companies start using them commercially.

"When we start seeing Amazon talking about using these for a delivery system, how do we regulate that or do we even regulate them?"

7

Number of years since last the Calgary Transportation Plan released. There were zero mentions of self-driving cars in that report.

Another item on the list of subjects to explore is alternative fuels.

Calgary is already bringing on buses that run on compressed natural gas. He wonders how that project will fare under the carbon tax, and if there are other alternative fuels the city should be looking at. Demong said the study isn't being requested with an eye to creating new regulations, but rather to be prepared as changes accelerate.

"I just want to be aware of new technologies as they come forward — how can we use them to save money?"

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Using his powers for good

TECHNOLOGY

Infamous former hacker now consults in cyber security

Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

Michael Calce, formerly known as Mafiaboy, was arrested at 15 for successfully infiltrating websites like CNN and Amazon. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

The former hacker known as Mafiaboy, who made headlines in 2000 when he was arrested at 15 for breaking into websites like CNN and Amazon, was in Edmonton Thursday with some tough love for Albertans about cyber security.

"My objective and mission was to basically scare the crap out of everybody, and I believe I succeeded in doing so," he said, now known by his real name, Michael Calce.

In town for the Automation Expo and Conference, the now 31-year-old cyber security consultant said the online world is less secure than when he was a teenage hacker.

Back then, know-how wasn't readily available, so hackers did their own coding and learned from tight knit communities that didn't let newcomers in very often, he said.

"Now, you have these tools on a mass scale," Calce said. "If you're a kid and you just Google the right software you can become a hacker very easily, and that's really scary. If I have kids I'm going to be monitoring them very, very closely."

He said most people don't think of themselves as targets, but anything that goes online — from banking information to personal data — is vulnerable.

He pointed to technology like free wifi networks and Bluetooth that make data more accessible, and says he believes it's only a matter of time before there's a massive breach of the cloud. He adds that people need to be careful with all new digital technologies.

"Be vigilant, research it a little," he said. "People are obsessed with social media and Instagram, but they're not thinking. I spend all this time on a computer or on a smartphone, why not actually research how to better protect myself?"

> **If you're a kid and you just Google the right software you can become a hacker very easily, and that's really scary.**
> **Michael Calce**

It's knowledge earned the hard way. Calce was sentenced to eight months in a youth detention centre for the damage — estimated to be worth as much as $1.7 billion — his attacks caused.

"I was 15 and drunk on power. I knew what I was doing from a technical perspective, but the ethical ramifications, not really," he said.

"I regret it because it was something bad, but I don't regret that what I did raised so much awareness in this industry. That to me is invaluable."

HOME INVASION

Robbery unit asks for help

Calgary Police are investigating after an early morning violent robbery in the city's southeast.

Police said they were called to the 1000 block of Lake Michigan Drive SE around 4 a.m. after receiving reports of a robbery.

According to CPS, three offenders with baseball bats and paintball guns broke into the home and attacked the two men inside.

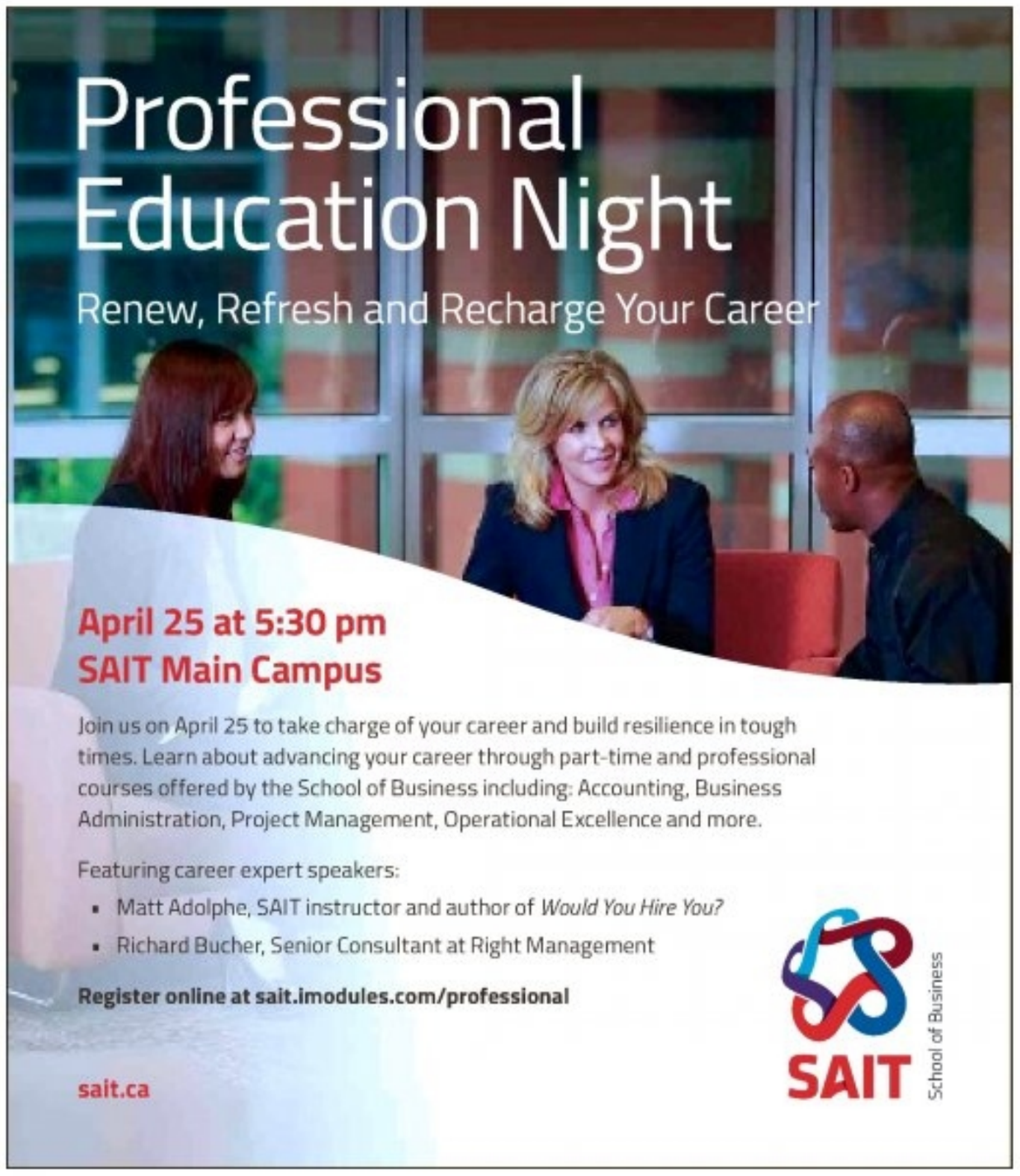
One victim was eventually able to escape and seek help at a neighbour's home.

Police said they're continuing to investigate, but have no descriptions of the suspects, and the victims aren't helping police with the investigation.

"The victims are uncooperative at this time," said Staff Sgt. Dave Louie with the CPS Robbery Unit. "We don't believe it was a random attack."

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact CPS at their non-emergency line: 403-266-1234

METRO



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Serious crime unit gets $2.6M boost

PUBLIC SAFETY

Province funds ALERT division to tackle high-level threats

The head of Alberta's police unit that targets organized and serious crimes is praising the government's decision to increase its budget by $2.6 million.

RCMP Superintendent Charmaine Bulger says the increase will mean Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams will not face layoffs this year.

The unit known as ALERT includes RCMP, Alberta Sheriffs and members of the Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat police services.

Justice Minister Kathleen Ganley says the budget increase is warranted when the province is facing gang violence, organized crime and dangerous drugs such as fentanyl.

Ganley says the ALERT program was facing cuts due to reduced federal support by the previous Conservative government.

She says the extra provincial money will fill the gap while the Liberal government considers a new funding request from Alberta.

"ALERT's work is essential to keeping Albertans safe," Ganley said Thursday.

"We felt it was critical to step up."

Bulger, chief executive officer of ALERT, said the teams are dealing with complex cases involving a growing number of criminal networks around the province.

The investigations also include firearms trafficking and Internet child exploitation.

Bulger said the additional money will help maintain these operations over the coming year.

"The budget is definitely encouraging news, Bulger said.

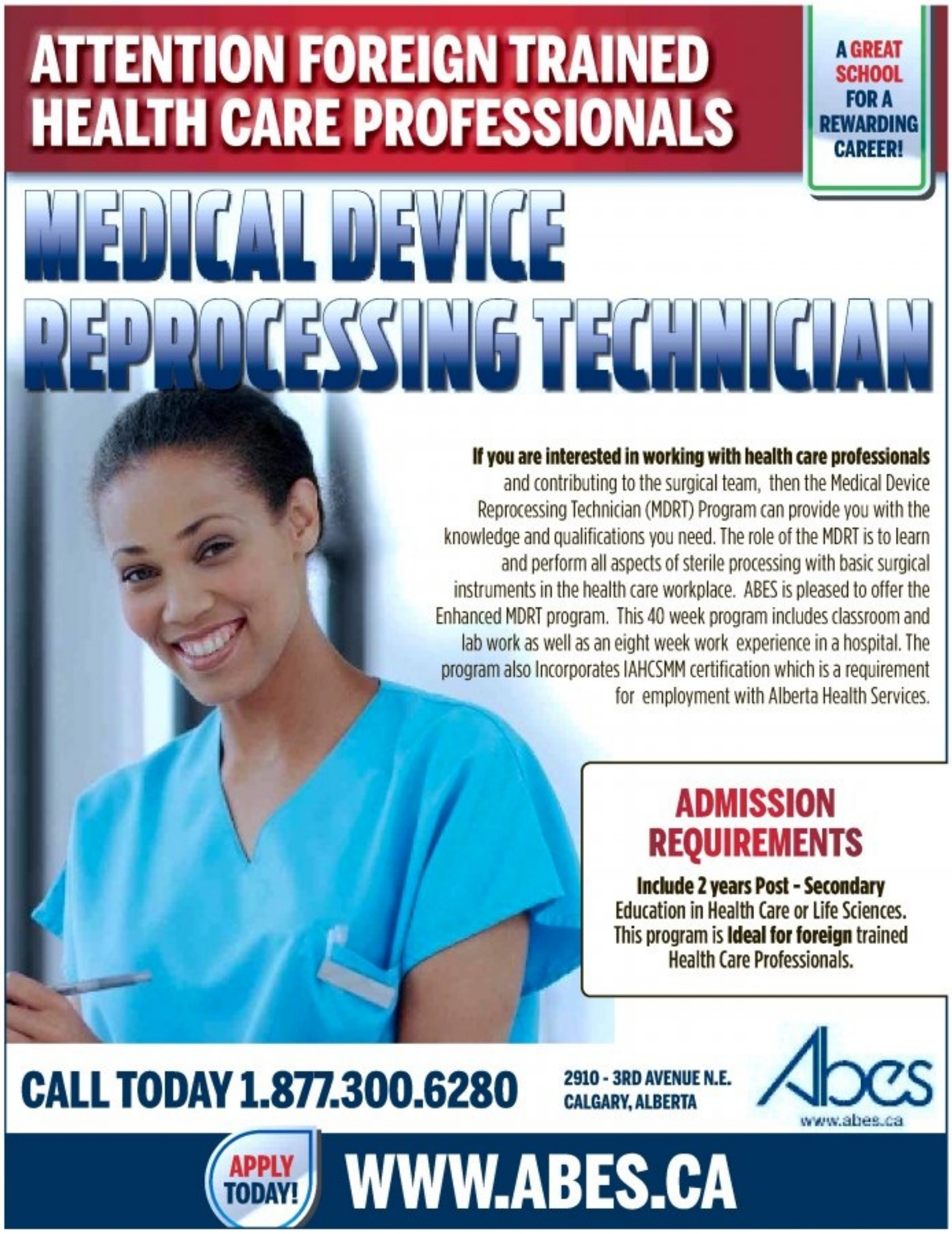
"There is a lot for police to work on."

The government also announced some changes to a program that targets properties that are regularly used for illegal activities such as drugs, gangs and prostitution.

Sheriffs in the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods program will now work directly for Alberta's Justice Department.

Ganley said the change will ensure that the ALERT unit focuses on disrupting higher-level criminal networks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



BUDGET

Carbon tax will hurt charities: Wildrose

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Brian Jean. METRO FILE

The NDP government again defended its carbon tax plan Thursday, after the Wildrose claimed cash-strapped charities will suffer from the levy.

During question period Thursday, Wildrose Leader Brian Jean said charities already face a double whammy, with fewer donations and higher demand due to the downturn.

"This NDP carbon tax will make things worse for those already working harder to take care of the victims of the current economic downturn," Jean said. "Premier Notley should be honest with Albertans about what the full price tag on charities will be from this carbon tax."

But Alberta Premier Rachel Notley fired back, saying charities received a funding boost — particularly the gas-guzzling Meals on Wheels charity group — from the 2016 budget.

The Wildrose has said the carbon tax would cost the average family about $1,000 per year.

But Environment Minister Shannon Phillips disputed that claim. She insisted it would cost half that per family, adding that families who make greener decisions could make money from the government's rebate dollars.

There will be a sliding scale of rebates for lower- and middle-income families. Anyone making more than $51,250 a year will pay the full cost of the tax, but 60 per cent of households will get that back.

In 2017, for example, the government estimates the carbon levy will cost a family $338 a year, but it will receive $360 to cover that off.

But Jean persisted — he said charities are dealing with the economic crisis first-hand.

"Charities can't just stop heating shelters during the winter, or trade in their vehicles," he said.

FRAUD

Beware CRA scam, warn Calgary police

Calgary police are warning the public of increasingly aggressive tactics being using in what is known as the "CRA Scam."

Victims are being contacted on their cellphones and asked to purchase gift cards to pay off alleged debt to the Canadian Revenue Agency by passing the gift card numbers off to the alleged CRA agent. Victims have been asked to withdraw cash.

Police said a victim was told there were liens against her property and vehicle and that there was a warrant out for her arrest. She was defrauded $20,000 before police could intervene.

Merchants and store cashiers should be aware of people asking to purchase large numbers of gift cards and to initiate conversations around scams.

Police encourage anyone who believes they may have lost money to one of these scams to call the non-emergency line at 403-266-1234.

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Stan Lee set to swing into Comic Expo

SCENE YYC

Writer-creator marvels at the popularity of his characters

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

At 93 years old, the father of Marvel Comics' most famous characters doesn't really have any special, standout moments in his illustrious career.

Stan Lee has appeared in more Marvel comic-book movies than any other actor — but although he helped create the likes of Spider-Man, Iron Man, Thor, the X-Men and a cavalcade of others, when looking back at his legacy he chuckled and remarked, "Everything we did, we got such a kick out of."

In his heyday, Lee's cavalier attitude translated into a very specific way of making comics, dubbed the Marvel Method. He rarely wrote scripts, usually just rough outlines. Sometimes there wasn't even a written outline — he'd walk over to the artist, tell them his ideas, the artist would draw it out and Lee would fill in the speech bubbles and text later.

"It was true collaboration," he said.

"It was just the artist and me working very closely on every script."

Lee said now, most comics are handled like movies: The writer writes, the artist draws from the script.

But his methods also ensured a variety of voices could cover important topics. Through Peter Parker, he covered adolescence; through Tony Stark, he explored arrogance — and through the Black Panther, who makes his movie debut in Captain America: Civil War, Lee explored race issues and created one of the first, and most popular, black superheroes.

People going to a movie or reading a book should always find someone in that movie or book they can identify with.

"I always tried to make sure there were characters of different diversities in there," he recalled. Black Panther was, at the time, a character he very much wanted to explore. "People going to a movie or reading a book should always find someone in that movie or book they can identify with."

He's still working on that. Lee was proud to say, with his film company POW Entertainment, he's working on films with Asian and Latino leading characters.

Speaking of movies, Lee showed no hesitation in talking about the film of his life.

He'd like Leonardo DiCaprio to play him.

"I've already discussed it with him," Lee said. "He brought the subject up to me.

"He said he was interested in it, and we'll probably have some more talks later on."

After having to cancel his appearance last year, Lee will be at the Calgary Comic Expo, April 28 to May 1.

Stan Lee, through collaboration with artists like Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko, created some of Marvel's most enduring characters. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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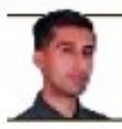
The sun will come up — in Calgary

SCENE YYC

Actor trumpets first director's return to Annie



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Actor Garrett Deagon talks playing Rooster Hannigan in the musical Annie, which comes to the Jubilee Auditorium from April 26 to 29.

The man behind the upcoming play is its original director, Martin Charnin, 81. COURTESY JOAN MARCUS

How did you approach the role of Rooster, one of the production's big villains?

There have been some heavy hitters playing these roles. I try not to impersonate them, as great as they are, and really bring my personal uniqueness to the role. I have a long, lanky body so I use a lot more physical comedy. I also try to humanize Rooster with real desperation for money and motives that would make him do these awful things.

How is your production of Annie unique?

It's brilliantly written, and the lyricist and original director, Martin Charnin, is the director of this production as well. He is 81 now and sharp as a tack.

There's nothing like seeing a piece remounted by its original creator, and with all of the incarnations of Annie throughout the years, watching this one, it's perfectly clear why it works so well. Every beat, every lyric, every costume is exactly the way he envisioned it to be in 1977.

The last Hollywood adaptation of Annie didn't do so great in the box office; why do you think that is?

Even Martin had joked about it in a rehearsal or two, commenting something along the lines of, 'It will come and go, no worry.'

It is always risky altering something iconic.

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WEEKEND EVENTS

FRIDAY — Motionball Ignite Gala
With the goal of raising money for the Special Olympics in Alberta and Canada, the Motionball Ignite Gala brings Calgarians together at the Telus Spark science centre with a multi-sensory show.

For more information visit motionball.com.

SATURDAY — Ode to Joy
The Calgary Philharmonic Chorus and the Cantare Children's Choir perform Beethoven's ninth symphony. The symphony is regarded as one of the composer's most positive and uplifting pieces. Check it out!

For more information visit calgaryphil.com.

SATURDAY — YYCFoodTrucks Spring Frenzy
The belts are coming off and bibs are going on — Calgary's mobile food scene is celebrating spring with the first YYC Food Truck event of the year. More than 15 food trucks, including pizza, lemonade and fish, come together for a day.

Takes place from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at East Village C-Square.

SUNDAY — Rain: A Tribute to The Beatles
Unless you can time travel, you'll never see The Beatles perform live, but Rain offers the next best thing. The tribute band travels through Calgary with a multimedia concert.

For more information, visit artscommons.ca.

AARON CHATHA/METRO

Calgary photographer Mark Ian was told to take down the Rush photos he was selling online. COURTESY IAN MARK

Rush orders take down of photos

MUSIC

Legal reps of Canadian band cite copyright infringement

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

A Calgary photographer who snapped shots of Rush in 1970s is battling with the band's legal team to sell his photos online.

Ian Mark took the photographs on behalf of a magazine that no longer exists. It was right around the time Fly by Night, Rush's first platinum album, came out.

Three years ago, Mark began selling them online in an Etsy store. Recently, he was surprised to receive a letter, claiming he was infringing on the band's copyright and could no longer sell the photos.

Mark reached out to the band directly for permission to sell the photos. A representative offered to buy them for $5,000, which Mark refused.

"When you give these photographs away, you're giving away everything," he said.

Mark's never had any issue with the photos he was selling, which included bands like Queen.

In three years, he's made about $530 off of the Rush photos.

Rush's lawyers said it's about protecting their clients' rights.

"There are many rights besides copyrights. These include trademark rights, personality rights and merchandising rights," said Bob Farmer, director with SRO/YYZ Entertainment Group Inc. "The owner of the photograph does not own these latter rights and cannot profit by exploiting them."

Farmer said he's asked Mark to forward the profits, which will then be donated to charity.

Entertainment lawyer EB Reinbergs said Rush's lawyers are correct in their legal analysis.

"Personality rights in Canada are not as developed as in the United States but they do exist, along with trademark rights," he said, adding each photo would have to be assessed individually to define the right involved.

Mark said he doesn't want to give them all his profits, or stop selling the photos.

"You (know) what's funny? I posted a photograph of Rush on Geddy Lee's Facebook site. And he sent me back a compliment, saying, great shot."

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Mayor Naheed Nenshi, seen here celebrating his re-election as mayor, says municipal governments provide the services that keep people healthy, safe and happy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Big-city mayors see bigger political role

POLITICS

Expert points to Nenshi as one of the few 'star' mayors

Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi has a tongue-in-cheek answer to explain what makes local government so special.

If the federal government disappeared tomorrow it would probably take Canadians a few weeks to notice, he says, and perhaps a few hours, or even days, in the case of a provincial government.

"(But) if your municipal government disappeared, well, you'd have no roads, you'd have no transit, you'd have no parks, you'd have no police, you'd have no firefighters, you'd have no clean water. You'd notice pretty quickly," Nenshi laughs.

"We provide the services that keep people healthy and safe and happy every hour of every day of their life."

Large municipalities are moving beyond the traditional realm of garbage collection, snow removal and street cleaning to play roles on climate change, immigration and clean energy.

That has produced so-called star mayors who are entering municipal politics to champion an expanded role for cities.

"You have had in recent years the emergence of municipal politicians who have captured public attention and have been able to draw attention to the needs of municipalities," says Warren Magnusson, a political theorist at the University of Victoria who specializes in urban studies.

> **If your municipal government disappeared ... you'd notice pretty quickly.**
> Mayor Naheed Nenshi

As a big-city mayor with a high profile following his 2014 World Mayor prize, Nenshi is an example of this phenomenon.

"Every mayor in Canada will tell you that they can walk down the street with any cabinet minister and probably the premier of their province, and it's the mayor that people on the street will stop to talk to," Magnusson says.

In Vancouver, Gregor Robertson who is serving his third term as mayor says mayors are the only heads of government in Canada elected directly by their constituents. Premiers and prime ministers typically serve a single riding, but their authority as first minister comes from being party leader. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CALGARY ZOO

ENMAX osprey cam is up and running

They're back!

After being cut short in 2015 because of an unplanned hail storm, the 2016 season of "osprey, the life of a terrifying looking bird" is back. The webcams, set up and maintained by ENMAX have been on a nesting platform at the Calgary Zoo for more than 20 years.

This year, avid watchers may notice the birds' platform has been moved to a new spot. That's because of two noisy construction projects near the old site that the zoo thought might ruffle the osprey's feathers.

The birds now call a perch by the ox enclosure in the zoo's Canadian Wilds exhibit home. It was chosen for its proximity to the river and nearby trees — but there was no guarantee the feathered friends would return to a foreign nesting spot.

"With all the work at the zoo we want to provide a safe place for the osprey away from construction and electrical infrastructure," said Alison Anaka, ENMAX environmental specialist. "While we can never predict their behaviour, we've relocated their new home in a spot similar to the last and are thrilled that they've returned for another season."

The camera gives viewers a birds-eye stream of nesting activities, egg laying, hatching feeding and first flights. Bird lovers beware, this reality show is quite addicting. But if you want to see the birds in real life, take a stroll to the Bow River Pathway adjacent to the zoo. METRO

A still taken from the ENMAX osprey cam. TWITTER/ ENMAX

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley may have had a change of heart on the Northern Gateway pipeline, according to her spokeswoman. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Notley rethinking stance on pipeline

ENERGY

Province looks at swapping B.C. electricity for pipeline

Premier Rachel Notley is rethinking her stance on the Northern Gateway pipeline as her government and British Columbia work on a deal that could see a pipeline to the West Coast swapped for the purchase of electricity.

Notley's spokeswoman Cheryl Oates said Thursday that talks are ongoing.

"B.C. is really looking to export their hydroelectricity," said Oates. "Alberta does not have a market for B.C.'s hydroelectricity unless we get our product to tidewater. So there's a common understanding there."

Notley has been cool to the idea of Enbridge's $6.5-billion Northern Gateway pipeline, which would take Alberta crude more than 1,000 kilometres to a marine terminal in Kitimat, B.C.

The line faces multiple regulatory hurdles and concerns about the port location, along with opposition from environmentalists and First Nations groups.

Oates said Notley was skeptical those hurdles could be overcome, but says the premier now sees progress.

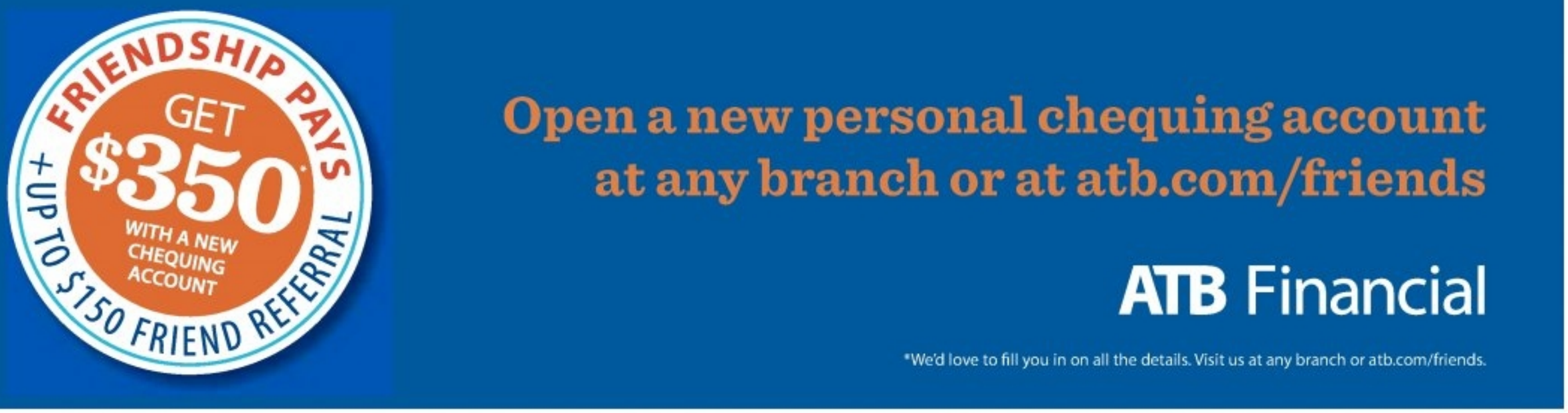
"People have been working behind the scenes on some of those issues," said Oates.

"We've met with those people. We've heard from those people. They are sounding optimistic so we will continue to work with them, but in the end it's up to the company to make their pitch for the project."

Enbridge is currently working to satisfy the 209 conditions included in its 2014 permit to build the pipeline.

B.C. Environment Minister Mary Polak said the hydroelectricity export could be particularly beneficial to Alberta, which plans to eliminate all coal-fired electricity by 2030.

Notley has been pushing hard for a new pipeline to get Alberta's oil to markets overseas so that its price is no longer tied to a sole customer, the United States. THE CANADIAN PRESS



ROYAL BIRTHDAY

Alberta gifts Queen a walkway

A walking trail "fit for a queen" in one of Canada's most well-known national parks is Alberta's 90th birthday present to the Queen.

The Commonwealth Walkway is to be created in the town of Banff in Banff National Park in honour of the monarch reaching the milestone.

"She's a wonderful individual, a true leader, and the kind of leadership and approach she's taken toward being a head of state — not just for Canada — is something we should all be proud of," said Bill Fisher, chairman of the Banff-Canmore Community Foundation.

The idea came from Alberta Lt.-Gov. Lois Mitchell, who wanted to celebrate the Queen's reign and Canada's long-standing role as a member of the Commonwealth.

"This project ... also celebrates an important part of our heritage while encouraging current and future generations of Canadians to get outside and enjoy the benefits of walking," Mitchell said in a news release.

Fisher said the United Kingdom organization The Outdoor Trust has a goal of creating walkways across all the Commonwealth countries.

Banff's Commonwealth Walkway is to feature bilingual bronze plaques along existing trails and at points of significant local interest. The plaques will bear the Queen's personal royal cipher and include details about royal connections to the mountain parks and Canada's Commonwealth history in general.

> **This project ... also celebrates an important part of our heritage.**
> Lt.-Gov. Lois Mitchell

"On your smartphone you could have an application that you could download, and it would explain the point of interest you're looking at," Fisher said. "It's really variable from walkway to walkway, but in Banff we're quite keen to explore our options of having several walkways that would emanate from a point in downtown Banff."

The final route won't be decided until next year.

The walkway is to be unveiled in September 2017 as part of events to mark Canada's 150th birthday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Queen Elizabeth II arrives for a ceremony to light a beacon that will set in train a series of 1,000 beacons to be lit worldwide to mark her birthday. ARTHUR EDWARDS/POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CRIME

Murder suspect wanted Canada-wide

Police are seeking Nathan Paul Gervais. COURTESY CPS

Calgary police are searching for a man charged with first-degree murder who violated the terms of his house arrest.

Nathan Paul Gervais, 21, of Calgary, was placed under 24-hour house arrest while awaiting his trial in connection with a murder three years ago.

When police checked his residence the morning of April 16, he wasn't home and investigators have been unable to locate him.

Canada-wide warrants have now been issued for his arrest.

Gervais is described as Caucasian, five-foot-eight tall, with a medium build, brown hair and brown eyes.

He was one of five people charged in relation to the death of a man in 2013.

On Nov. 23, 2013, medical crews were called to the 200 block of 10 Avenue S.W., for reports of a man needing medical assistance.

It's believed the victim, Lukas Strasser-Hird, was in two altercations outside a bar.

He died of stab wounds.

Of the five people charged, Gervais is the only one facing first-degree murder charges. The others are all facing second-degree murder charges.

METRO

Alberta advanced education minister Marlin Schmidt.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

University board stays

EDUCATION

Province to keep U of C appointments

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Board appointments, they're pesky little devils — especially when the past practice has often been for post-secondary institutions, or governments, to select their preferred candidates.

Currently at the University of Calgary there are nine positions coming to term — including the current board chair Bonnie DuPont, whose term ended on April 9. At Mount Royal University, there's two open positions, spots now being openly advertised online.

"We've got vacancies all across the province and we're doing public postings, which is something that hasn't been done in the past, and we're looking at diversity as one of the criteria," said Advanced Education Minister Marlin Schmidt, in an interview with Metro. "We don't think that the current boards really reflect the diversity of Alberta, and certainly not the diversity on campus."

Marc Schroeder, president of the Mount Royal University Faculty Association, said they are welcoming changes to the board of governors appointment process and criteria.

"Faculty and students are still proportionally underrepresented," said Schroeder. He noted on their board one position is given to faculty and one to a student representative, where the U of C board has a much more robust representation.

"More generally speaking than that, there's a clear place for business leaders on an institutions board, we certainly don't dispute that, but we also think a publicly-funded institution should have a board that's also broadly representative to the community it serves."

When asked if this means the government will be scrubbing boards of any PC supporters and replacing them with NDP supporters and donors, the minister joked, "I think there are more board appointments than there are NDP donors, but there are a lot of vacancies coming up... we're putting out there the criteria that board appointments have to meet and the candidates are being interviewed by a panel — we're selecting people who are up to the job."

Schmidt said past practice at some post-secondary institutions was to put forward recommendations and the minister would act as a rubber stamp, not offering a lot of scrutiny.

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PM boxes through questions

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

...and encourages young people to work on political campaigns

Young people need to get more involved in politics, Justin Trudeau told an audience of university students in New York City this morning.

"Young people need to demand more from their politicians, their business leaders, their community leaders," the prime minister told students at New York University.

Strolling among them with his sleeves rolled up and a microphone in his hand, Trudeau said that there's plenty of work for everyone to do to make the world a better place.

Trudeau is in New York City to sign the Paris climate-change agreement on Friday.

His itinerary on Thursday also included a photo-op at the legendary Gleason's Gym, where boxing champions Muhammad Ali, Jake (Raging Bull) LaMotta and Mike Tyson trained (albeit in the gym's previous locations).

PM Justin Trudeau spars at Gleason's Boxing Gym in Brooklyn, New York on Thursday. Trudeau was there to train with kids from the Give A Kid A Dream program that works to provide mentorship to disadvantaged youths through boxing. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trudeau acknowledged to the students that Canadians leave a high per capita carbon footprint through the use of energy, and that Canada's relations with its First Nations communities present an enormous challenge.

He said his government is striving to reflect Canadian ideals and values, and that includes getting more young people interested in the political process.

Trudeau added that young people need to work in political campaigns, and not just as "letter stuffers and sign-putter-uppers."

Most of the question-and-answer session with the students dealt with the environment.

He defended his support of pipelines to carry oil as safer than rail transport, but said society has to eventually wean itself off reliance on fossil fuels.

He said that it's not necessarily a bad thing if big business gets involved in organic farming, if it's done responsibly.

"We need to be able to scale up food production to feed the world," Trudeau said. "We need to be able to provide food and sustenance to a hungry planet."

This is the prime minister's fourth trip to the U.S. since last month. He's also been hosted at a White House state dinner, attended a nuclear arms-control summit and attended meetings at the United Nations. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Trudeau lands on Time list

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been chosen by Time magazine as one of the 100 most influential people of 2016.

The annual list of leaders, artists, titans, pioneers and so-called icons includes such notable names as Pope Francis, Nicki Minaj and Caitlyn Jenner.

Trudeau is among the 32 people featured in the leader category and is named alongside U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump, Christine Lagarde of the International Monetary Fund, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and even North Korean leader King Jong Un.

In a write-up for Time by Saturday Night Live executive producer Lorne Michaels — himself a Canadian — Trudeau is described as talented and disciplined.

"In many ways Canada is no longer the country I grew up in, but when I hear Justin Trudeau talk, it sounds like my Canada again. Bold, clear as a bell and progressive," writes Michaels. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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ATTAWAPISKAT

‘Promised a house’ in Attawapiskat

The intractable housing crisis plaguing Attawapiskat and many First Nations communities across Canada is brought into sharp focus by Teresa Kataquapit.

Standing in her three-bedroom home, Kataquapit, 75, eyes the broken, loose and stained ceiling tiles; the heaving and cracked linoleum floors; the plastic-covered and boarded-up windows.

“It’s very cold,” a somewhat embarrassed Kataquapit says in Cree.

The home to five people has been condemned as unfit. It’s one of about 80 homes in this hard-scrabble reserve in need of a bulldozer.

Yet like many other indigenous Canadians living on First Nations, Kataquapit continues to reside in a structure heated by a single woodstove. There is nowhere else for her to go.

“I was promised a house twice by the former chiefs,” she says. “But nothing to date.”

Attawapiskat has about 340 homes for its 2,100 residents, an average of seven people in each. Some house as many as 13 people. Coupled with substance abuse, the crowded conditions are fertile for abuse and despair — factors that play directly into the headline-grabbing suicide crisis afflicting the community.

With close to a quarter of existing units condemned, the pressure on the community is enormous and rising — the population is projected to grow by almost 20 per cent in the coming decade.

What you have, says Wayne Turner, the chief executive officer of the Attawapiskat First Nation, is the very definition of a housing crisis.

“Each and every year, there’s new demand,” Turner says in his construction-trailer office. “Our ability to provide housing is limited.” THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mike Duffy leaves court after his trial on Thursday.
JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Duffy not guilty: Judge

COURT

Harsh words reserved for Crown, PMO

Mike Duffy walked out of an Ottawa court a free man Thursday after a judge cleared him of all charges while at the same time delivering a scathing indictment of the Prince Edward Island senator’s former political masters.

Duffy sat almost totally still throughout the four hours Justice Charles Vaillancourt spent dismantling the Crown’s argument that the senator had deliberately defrauded the public purse by claiming invalid living and office expenses and had engaged in corrupt behaviour when it came to paying that money back.

> **The political, covert, relentless, unfolding of events is mind boggling and shocking.**
> Justice Charles Vaillancourt

Vaillancourt all but wagged his finger in admonishment at the Crown as he repeatedly questioned their decision not to extensively cross-examine Duffy or try to challenge his testimony with witnesses of their own during the 62-day trial.

But the justice’s harshest words were aimed at the Prime Minister’s Office under Stephen Harper and its conduct regarding a decision by Harper’s former chief of staff, Nigel Wright, to give Duffy $90,000 to repay his living expenses.

Vaillancourt said he did not see it the same way as the Crown, which had argued Duffy’s actions were driven by “deceit, manipulations and carried out in a clandestine manner” when he took the cheque.

“I find that if one were to substitute the PMO, Nigel Wright and others for Senator Duffy in the aforementioned sentence that you would have a more accurate statement,” Vaillancourt said.

Vaillancourt said he found Duffy a credible witness and that he was subject to intense pressure from the PMO and its staff, who only had one goal: make the political storm created by Duffy’s expense issues go away.

He said the email traffic between Wright, Duffy and other PMO officials exposed a chief of staff ordering senators around like “pawns on a chess board,” and saw senators “meekly acquiesce” and then “robotically” march out to repeat their scripted lines.

“The political, covert, relentless, unfolding of events is mind boggling and shocking,” Vaillancourt said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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WOOD AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

HISTORY

Harriet Tubman to be on U.S. $20 bill

U.S. paper money is getting a historic makeover.

Harriet Tubman, an African-American abolitionist born into slavery, will be the new face on the $20 bill.

The leader of the Underground Railroad is replacing the portrait of Andrew Jackson, the nation's seventh president and a slave owner, who is being pushed to the back of the bill.

And Alexander Hamilton, the nation's first Treasury secretary who's enjoying a revival thanks to a hit Broadway play, will keep his spot on the $10 note after earlier talk of his removal.

The changes are part of a currency redesign announced Wednesday by Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, with the new $20 marking two historic milestones: Tubman will become the first African-American to ever be featured on U.S. paper money and the first woman to be depicted on paper currency in 100 years.

"This gesture sends a powerful message, because of the tendency in American history, the background of excluding women and marginalizing them as national symbols," said Riche Richardson, associate professor in the Africana Studies and Research Center at Cornell University. "So even the symbolic significance of this cannot be overstated."

Lew also settled a backlash that had erupted after he had announced an initial plan to remove Hamilton from the $10 bill in order to honour a woman on the bill. Instead, the Treasury building on the back of the bill will be changed to commemorate a 1913 march that ended on the steps of the building. It will also feature suffragette leaders Lucretia Mott, Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Alice Paul.

The back of the $20, which now shows the White House, will be redesigned to include the White House and Jackson, whose statute stands across the street in Lafayette Park.

The $5 bill will also undergo change: The illustration of the Lincoln Memorial on the back will be redesigned to honour "events at the Lincoln Memorial that helped to shape our history and our democracy."

The new image on the $5 bill will include civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., who gave his famous "I have a dream" speech on the steps of the memorial in 1963, and Marian Anderson and Eleanor Roosevelt.

The last woman featured on U.S. paper money was Martha Washington, who was on a dollar silver certificate from 1891 to 1896. The only other woman ever featured on U.S. paper money was Pocahontas, from 1865 to 1869.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This photo shows an image provided by the Women On 20s organization featuring abolitionist Harriet Tubman on the U.S. twenty dollar bill. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

ENGLAND

LONG LIVE THE QUEEN

England's Queen Elizabeth II greets well-wishers during a "walkabout" on her 90th birthday in Windsor, west of London, on Thursday.

Thousands lined the streets of the town carrying cakes, cards, balloons and Union Jack flags and Prime Minister David Cameron leading a parliamentary homage.

Cameron praised the monarch's "unshakable sense of duty," pointing out that she had provided counsel to 12 British prime ministers and met a quarter of all the U.S. presidents since Independence.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Paris climate deal on track for early start

ENVIRONMENT

Record could be set for international diplomacy

As many as 170 countries are expected to sign the Paris Agreement on climate change Friday in a symbolic triumph for a landmark deal that once seemed unlikely but now appears on track to enter into force years ahead of schedule.

UN officials say the signing ceremony Friday will set a record for international diplomacy: Never before have so many countries inked an agreement on the first day of the signing period.

That could help pave the way for the pact to become effective long before the original 2020 deadline — possibly this year, though countries must first formally approve it through their domestic procedures.

"We are within striking distance of having the agreement start years earlier than anyone anticipated," said Brian Deese, an adviser to President Barack Obama.

The U.S. and China, which together account for nearly 40 per cent of global emissions, have said they intend to formally join the agreement this year. It will enter into force once 55 countries representing at least 55 per cent of global emissions have done so.

"There's incredible momentum," said former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, who heads the UN Development Program. She said her agency is working with more than 140 countries on climate change-related issues, and that financing to make the Paris Agreement a reality is "critical, and let's hope everyone lives up to commitments made."

The agreement, the world's response to hotter temperatures, rising seas, was hammered out in December outside Paris. The pact was a major breakthrough in UN climate negotiations, which for years were bogged down with disputes between rich and poor countries.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ EMISSIONS

Under the agreement, countries set their own targets for reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The targets are not legally binding but countries must update them every five years.

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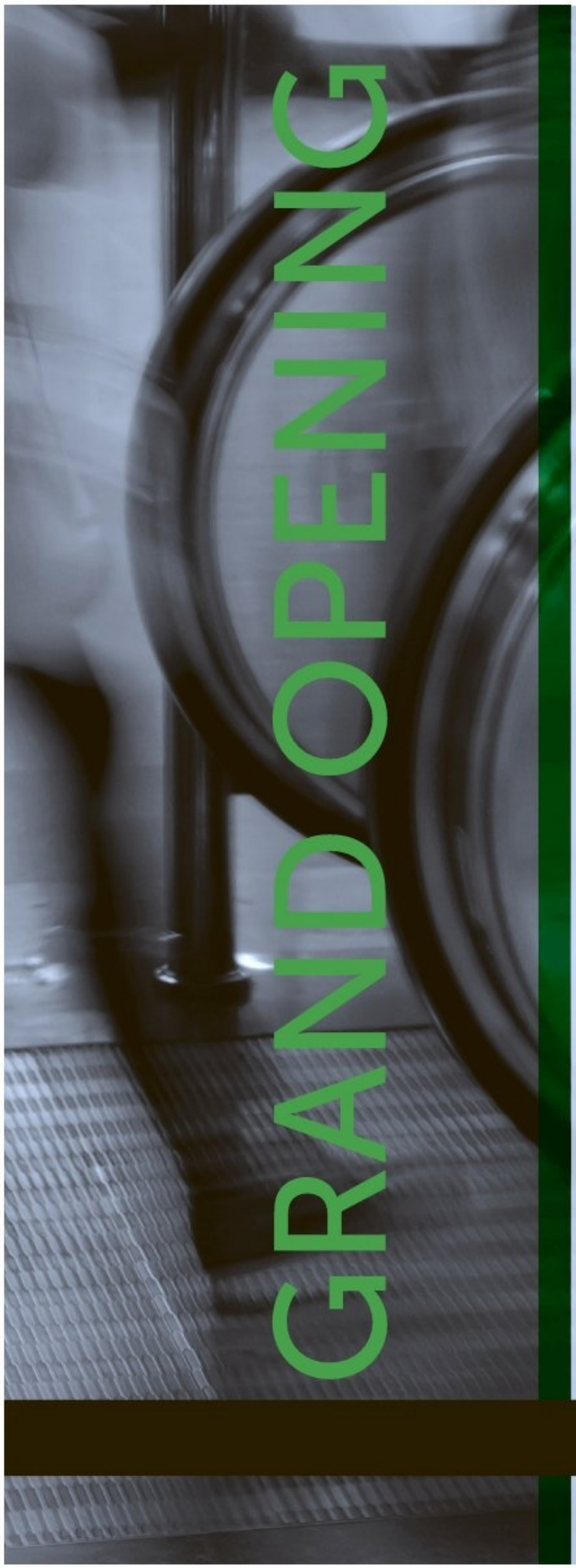

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UNITED STATES

FBI paid $1M to unlock terrorist's iPhone

The FBI paid more than $1 million to an unidentified third party to help agents unlock the iPhone of a terrorist involved in last year's San Bernardino, Calif., attacks, the bureau's director, James B. Comey, said Thursday.

Speaking at a security forum in London, Comey elliptically referred to the cost of breaking into the iPhone as being more than the total he will earn in the remaining seven years of his 10-year term as the bureau's director. Comey earns $183,000 a year.

"We paid a lot," Comey said. "But it was worth it."

The FBI has not disclosed the identity of the party who helped it crack into the device. A law enforcement official has said that investigators found nothing of significance on the phone used by Syed Rizwan Farook, who died in a gun battle with police on Dec. 2 after he and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, killed 14 people and wounded 22 others.

In February, the Justice Department obtained a court order compelling Apple to help investigators bypass the device's security features in a way that wouldn't automatically erase its contents. Apple refused and the ensuing court fight generated a heated controversy that pitted the Justice Department and other law enforcement officials against privacy advocates and major technology companies who fear creating "backdoors" into their products.

The FBI last month abruptly dropped the case when it was approached by an unidentified third party that had found a way to circumvent the phone's security features. Comey and other top Justice Department officials credited publicity surrounding the court clash with spurring outside groups to try to hack into the phone.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Two men — Muaz Mahmud, 25, from Ethiopia, right, and Mowlid Isman, 28, from Somalia — were among 41 people picked up over the weekend from a boat found adrift in the Mediterranean Sea. The two described on Thursday what they say was a shipwreck that might have killed up to 500 people. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Survivors recall horror

MIGRANTS

Mediterranean shipwreck may have left up to 500 people dead

Two men who were among 41 people picked up over the weekend from a boat found adrift in the Mediterranean Sea described on Thursday surviving what they say was a shipwreck that might have killed up to 500 people.

If confirmed, the sinking, which would have taken place sometime last week, would be one of the deadliest migrant boat sinkings in the Mediterranean. So far, there has been no independent confirmation of a mass casualty tragedy at sea.

The coast guard authorities of Italy, Greece, Libya and Egypt haven't confirmed a sinking, and there haven't yet been any reports of bodies or debris washing ashore.

Muaz Mahmud Aymo, a 25-year-old Ethiopian, and Mowlid Isman, a 28-year-old Somali, said they had been heading to Italy, leaving the Libyan port city of Tobruk at night on a boat with about 200 people on board. They said smugglers forced them onto a larger boat, which they said already had about 300 people on board although it was dark and they couldn't see inside.

The larger boat sank during the transfer of people from the smaller vessel, they said, and all died except 31 people who were still on the smaller boat and 10 more, including the two of them, who were picked up from the sea by Somalis who were still on the smaller boat.

"The people all, they die on that ocean," said Aymo, who said his 2-month-old baby and 20-year-old wife were among the fatalities. Isman said he lost his sister and his sister's baby.

Aymo said the smugglers had told them the journey, for which each passenger paid $1,800, would be safe.

"We saw the dead people with our eyes," Isman said, speaking through an interpreter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Teen Islamic extremists behind Sikh temple blast

Two teenage Islamic extremists were allegedly behind an explosion in a Sikh temple in the German city of Essen that wounded three people, the city's police president said Thursday, calling the blast an "act of terror." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EU keeps sanctions threat on Thai seafood

The European Union is maintaining the threat of a seafood import ban on Thailand because the global exporter is still not doing enough to improve its fisheries and labour practices, officials said Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Earth Day: A global phenomenon

As you celebrate Earth Day by planting a tree, signing the 25th anniversary flag or joining in any of the eco-events in your community, know that you're part of a movement — and it's only getting bigger.

There's a whole planet of concerned citizens out there committed to building a healthy, sustainable environment, addressing climate change and protecting the future of the Earth.

The worldwide phenomenon of Earth Day began over 40 years ago in the United States by Gaylord Nelson, a Wisconsin politician who overhauled his state's natural-resource program before turning his sights on the rest of the country.

His efforts led to the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, which is credited with launching the modern environmental movement. Soon after, the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and many other landmark environmental laws were passed.

By the 1990s, Earth Day had gone global, inspiring 200 million people in more than 100 countries to get involved and propelling environmental issues onto the international stage.

The Earth Day Network had become the world's largest gateway to the environmental movement, working through a combination of education, public policy, and consumer campaigns in nearly 200 countries.

Earth Day is now the largest civic observance on the planet, with more than one billion people participating in activities each year.

For Deb Doncaster, president of Earth Day Canada, the numbers may be impressive, but it's how the various Earth Day organizations around the world have begun working together that will lead to sustainable success.

And initiatives such as Rooting4Trees, a month-long crowd-planting campaign committed to planting 25,000 legacy trees, are pivotal.

"There hasn't been a lot of unity among the groups we're all trying to change that," she says. "Part of our tree campaign was inspired by the Earth Day Network's call to action to plant 7.8 billion trees by Earth Day 2020. We're trying to work with the other Earth Day organizations to have more consistency in terms of our goals and our campaigns for Earth Day."

The next step, she says, is getting the significance of April 22 fully validated on the holiday calendar, "a push to have Earth Day designated as a stat holiday, or a day of civic action, where we encourage people to get outside and touch the Earth in some way or another," she says.

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Store cuts down on food waste, helps community

True to its name, Community Natural Foods has been working on a number of initiatives to benefit Calgary's greater community while also reducing any negative impact the stores may have on the environment.

All three Community Natural Food store locations across Calgary are helping to reduce both food waste and hunger in the city at the same time thanks to some creative solutions.

Most conventional grocery stores put perishable food on sale as it gets close to its expiry date. If customers don't buy the food — be it tubs of yogurt, blocks of cheese or packages of meat — the grocery stores simply throw it out, resulting in scores of still-edible products being hauled off to the landfill every week.

But Community Natural Foods takes a different tack. "We really try to eliminate the food waste," says Chandra Morice, the store's marketing manager. "We take those products that are about to expire and donate them to community groups so they can feed their clients."

Community Natural Foods provides about $199,000 worth of food to the community every year. "That equals enough food to feed 25 families a year," says Morice. It also helps cut into the roughly $27 billion worth of edible food that Canadians throw out every year.

Additionally, Community Natural Foods works on reducing the number of plastic bags that end up at the dump. The store hasn't used plastic bags since 2008, and every year since it has saved an estimated 1.5 million plastic bags from ending up in the landfill. The first grocer in the city to stop using single-use plastic bags, Community Natural Foods employs a private operator to recycle plastics, cardboards, paper, glass, tin and beverage containers. Every location also has a cellphone and PDA recycle box for customers to drop off their old devices.

Furthermore, the store doesn't use or sell single-use plastic bottles, a move which has helped diminish plastic bottle waste since 2009. "That's saving more than 45,000 bottles per year and diverting more than 3,300 pounds of plastic waste away from landfills," says Morice.

ISTOCK

The store's Change For the Earth program is another way that the store encourages waste reduction. Customers who bring their own bags to carry out groceries can donate five cents per bag to three Calgary not-for-profit organizations each month that represent people, community and the planet.

"We match the total amount our customers donate," says Morice. "That means significant funds are going to organizations like the Canadian Women's Foundation, Calgary Humane Society, Pawsitive Match Foundation, Organic Alberta, Sandy Cross Conservation Society, Adoption Options and plenty more."

As a result of their eco-friendly and charitable efforts, Community Natural Foods has consistently won the Best Mid-Size Business Award annually from the Respect for the Earth and All People (or REAP) Be Local Awards since 2013.

GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FOOD

HOW LOCAL COMPANIES TURN EVERYDAY WASTE INTO FARM SUSTAINABILITY

In an ongoing effort to reduce their environmental footprint and strengthen the local economy, Community Natural Foods is working with Calgary-area farmers to provide an innovative solution to their compost needs.

The store has partnered with fellow local company HOP, the first inner-city compost facility in the country, to compost waste. Together, they've taken food that's no longer fit for human consumption and turned it into compost that will help grow the next generation of food.

HOP picks up food waste and kitchen scraps from each of Community Natural Food's three locations (along with dozens of other restaurants in Calgary) and turns the waste into certified organic compost. "It's a closed loop," says Chandra Morice, Community Natural Food's marketing manager. "They take any waste we generate from our produce and cafes and compost it within 10 days, which is then used on local organic farms — the same ones that provide the produce sold in our stores. It's a full circle."

Every year, Community Natural Foods composts nearly 93,000 pounds of waste.

HOP provides the highest nutrient-dense organic compost in the country. "It takes 7.6 bags of standard compost to match the amount of nutrients found in one bag of HOP compost," says Morice. "We think that's pretty impressive."

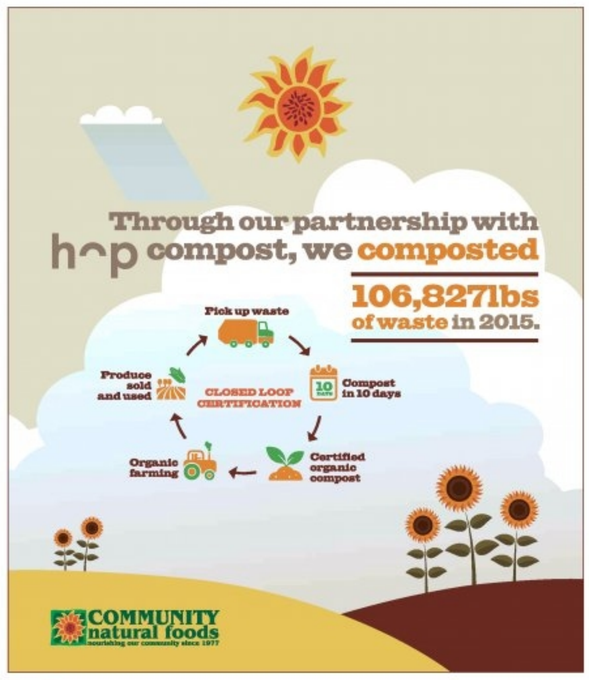
Most restaurants waste up to 40 per cent of their food. By composting it instead, these restaurants could instead help grow the next generation of food.

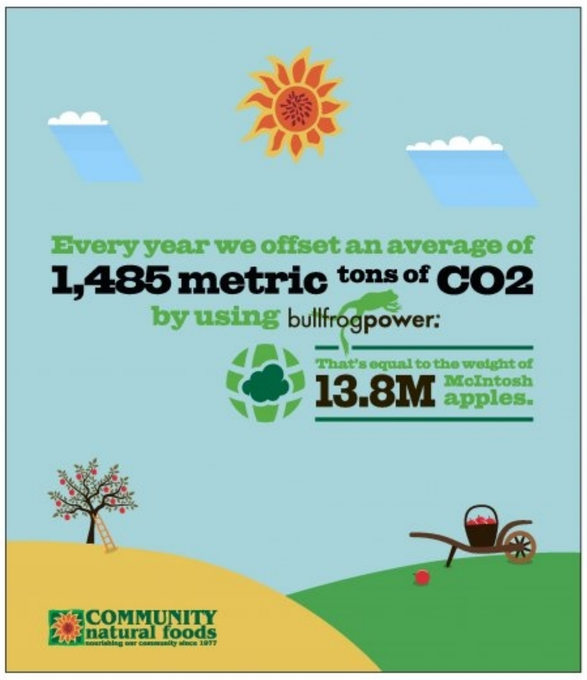
The clean technology utilized by HOP lets it eliminate 98 per cent of the water contamination seen in composting and cuts production time from six months to 10 days. "HOP creates a regenerative food cycle with its closed loop, pushing food from farm to table back to farm," says Morice. "So each generation of local foods sustains the next generation, without any waste."

ISTOCK

HOP estimates it has diverted nearly two million pounds of waste from Calgary's landfills to date. Compostable waste takes up 40 per cent of landfill space, and that landfill space is estimated to run out in just a couple of decades. The company has also reduced about 4.5 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions. Every pound of food in the landfill creates about four pounds of methane emissions, which is the equivalent to 100 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions. "To look at that another way," says Morice, "consider that HOP's composting is equivalent to taking 9,702 cars off of the road today, conserving enough land for 429 fridges and saving enough water to fill 35,610 wine bottles."

It is through relationships with companies like HOP that Community Natural Foods can confidently identify themselves as a growing sustainable business.





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Women and children wait in a line for over an hour on Thursday for free food and water from the government, days after an earthquake in Crucita, Ecuador. RODRIGO ABD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Millionaires tax to pay for rebuild

EARTHQUAKE

Ecuador looks at ways to raise cash to repair quake damage

The death count from Ecuador's worst earthquake in a decade rose to at least 577 on Thursday even as the country was facing another grim toll: a long and costly reconstruction effort likely to cost billions of dollars.

President Rafael Correa announced Wednesday night that he would raise sales taxes and put a one-time levy on millionaires to help pay for reconstruction.

The damage from the 7.8-magnitude quake adds to already heavy economic hardships being felt in this OPEC nation because of the collapse in world oil prices. Even before the quake, Ecuador was bracing for a bout of austerity, with the International Monetary Fund forecasting the economy would shrink 4.5 per cent this year.

In a televised address Wednesday night, Correa warned the nation of a long and costly post-quake recovery and said the economic pain shouldn't fall only on hard-hit communities along the coast.

"I know we're at the most-difficult stage right now but it's just the beginning," he said.

Rescuers continued to comb through the rubble in coastal towns hit hardest by the quake, but the clock is running down for finding survivors. Rescue workers say a person without serious injuries can survive up to a week buried in debris in the Ecuadorian heat.

0.9%
A one-time wealth tax that people with more than $1 million US in assets will be charged.

On Thursday, Jorge Zambrano, mayor of the community of Manta, announced that three people had been pulled from beneath a collapsed building the night before and vowed to continue searching.

"I still have hope we can find more people who are still alive beneath the rubble," he said. "If we have even a hope of life, we must work with extreme care."

Rescuers also found a more unusual survivor: A flapping white-and-brown duck was pulled from under a pile of rubble, becoming a social media celebrity in a country eager for good news.

Using authority granted by the state of emergency he declared after Saturday night's quake, Correa said sales taxes would increase from 12 per cent to 14 per cent for the coming year.

People with more than $1 million in assets will be charged a one-time tax of 0.9 per cent on their wealth, while workers earning over $1,000 a month will be forced to contribute a day's wages and those earning $5,000 a month the equivalent of five days' pay.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Trump voices opposition to transgender bathroom law

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump GETTY IMAGES

U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said Thursday that transgender people should be able to use whichever bathroom they choose, wading into one of the most contentious issues in politics and opposing many in his party.

Speaking at a town hall event on NBC's Today show on Thursday, Trump was asked about North Carolina's so-called "bathroom law," which, among other things, requires transgender people to use bathrooms corresponding to the gender on their birth certificate in state government buildings as well as public schools and universities.

Trump said the law had caused unnecessary strife for the state, which he said had paid "a big price" economically.

"There have been very few complaints the way it is. People go, they use the bathroom that they feel is appropriate," said Trump. "There has been so little trouble."

Trump's main rival, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, immediately fired back. "Grown adult men, strangers, should not be alone in a bathroom with little girls," Cruz said, calling his view "basic common sense."

> There have been very few complaints the way it is.
> U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump

Asked at the town hall about Caitlyn Jenner, an Olympic gold medal winner then-known as Bruce Jenner, walking into Trump Tower using the bathroom, he said would be fine with her using any bathroom she chooses.

Still, Trump said he's opposed to efforts to create new, transgender bathrooms alongside single gendered ones, calling that push "discriminatory in a certain way" and "unbelievably expensive for businesses and the country."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Parody sheds light on 'voluntourism'

SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram account pokes fun at 'white saviour complex'

Rebecca Williams
Metro | Toronto

"As I was away for what seemed like an eternity, I couldn't help but continue to be convicted by my wasteful tears. I have now begun collecting them." INSTAGRAM

Parody accounts on Instagram are nothing new but a new account is shedding light on the problematic issue of "voluntourism."

Much like the now-defunct Sociality Barbie account that poked fun of hipster accounts, "Savior Barbie" mocks Westerners crippled with the "White Saviour Complex" desire to travel and volunteer abroad.

White Savior Barbie's bio sums it up: "It's not about me … but it kind of is."

Created by two anonymous twenty-something women, both self-professed former "white saviours," the account skewers using humans as living photo ops with ridiculous captions to match.

"The attitude that Africa needs to be saved from itself, by Westerners, can be traced back to colonialism and slavery," the makers of Savior Barbie told the Huffington Post.

Although a lot of the comments on the account, which already has more than 40,000 followers as of Thursday, are positive, the creators said they knew the posts might not sit well with everyone.

"If you're offended by the account then you'd better be offended by the real accounts who actually display this behavior in all authenticity," they said.

COFFEE

Starbucks pops up in South Africa

Hundreds of coffee lovers queued early Thursday in an upmarket Johannesburg shopping centre as international chain Starbucks opened its first cafe in sub-Saharan Africa.

The U.S.-based global brand plans to open 12 to 15 more stores in South Africa over the next two years, with a long-term plan of up to 150 outlets.

The cafe's first customers formed a long line at Starbucks' doors before the opening at 7:30 a.m.

"We've been queueing for twelve hours, since 7:30 last night and we wanted to be the first customers at Starbucks, and we were," said 19-year-old student Mohamed Mala.

Another customer, Norma Cooper, described the arrival of the cafe as "long overdue."

"Starbucks has been one of the things missing from the South African scene," said the bank employee.

A second branch will open later this month at another shopping mall in the financial capital Johannesburg, but there are no plans to expand to other countries in the region.

Starbucks, which operates more than 22,000 cafes worldwide, has a presence in only two other African countries — Egypt and Morocco.

A caffe latte in the stylish shop costs between 27 and 33 rand ($1.89- $2.30). AFP

Hundreds of people queue during the official opening of South Africa's first Starbucks store, in Johannesburg on Thursday. AFP

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F-259A	2008 FORD ESCAPE XLT 4WD	171,500	$7,990	$95
B10261	2010 TOYOTA MATRIX AUTO	128,000	$7,999	$95
V10328	2008 SUZUKI SXT TOURING	118,500	$7,999	$121
B10364	2010 NISSAN VERSA AUTO	106,550	$7,999	$78
F-1263A	2005 F150 XLT CREW 4X4	159,850	$7,999	$122
A5984	2010 DODGE AVENGER	84,000	$8,800	$101
A6057	2009 DODGE CARAVAN	169,000	$8,800	$101
FK-1100A	2012 FORD FOCUS AUTO	123,293	$8,999	$71
16T321A	2008 HYUNDAI ENTOURAGE	125,000	$8,999	$133
A6019	2008 FORD ESCAPE XLT 4WD	135,500	$8,999	$133
F-1852A	2011 FORD TAURUS SEL AWD	181,350	$8,999	$105
F-2417A	2014 FORD FIESTA SE H/B	99,500	$9,499	$67
B10294	2011 CHRYSLER 200 TOURING	100,300	$9,499	$92
A6035	2011 NISSAN SENTRA AUTO	110,000	$9,500	$90
A5711	2010 VW JETTA TDI	117,500	$9,800	$112
A5810	2011 FORD FUSION AWD	147,700	$9,800	$93
A6082	2010 TOYOTA COROLLA SPORT	105,000	$9,800	$112

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STK#	YEAR/MODEL	KM'S	PRICE	BW PAYMENT
A5955	2011 VW JETTA HIGHLINE	103,000	$10,500	$99
B5949	2012 MITSUBISHI LANCER	125,000	$10,990	$91
B10401	2012 FORD FOCUS SE	87,350	$10,999	$90
P10358	2014 CHEVY CRUZE LT	83,900	$11,499	$83
CF0894A	2012 HONDA CIVIC EX	80,615	$11,539	$96
B10299	2012 CHEVY CRUZE ECO	56,600	$11,999	$99
16150	2014 FORD FOCUS SE	47,087	$12,490	$88
P10334	2014 FORD FOCUS SE	66,500	$12,799	$93
A6043	2010 RAM 1500 SLT 4X4	179,000	$12,800	$120
G-923A	2011 FORD ESCAPE XLT 4WD	122,301	$12,988	$103
16C031A	2011 CHRYSLER 200 LX	38,000	$12,990	$107
16117A	2014 FORD FIESTA SE H/B	48,000	$12,990	$92
A5812	2010 CHEVY EQUINOX AWD	109,000	$13,800	$156
L099	2015 DODGE DART M/T	25	$13,990	$99
F-810A	2014 FORD FOCUS	69,605	$13,990	$99
B5939A	2013 DODGE AVENGER SXT	59,000	$13,998	$99
B82539	2014 MAZDA 5 GS	39,425	$14,477	$101
B6479	2012 HONDA CIVIC LX AUTO	78,961	$14,539	$115
16158	2014 FORD FOCUS SE	22,960	$14,990	$105
P10320	2014 TOYOTA COROLLA LE	41,500	$14,999	$108

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E6425	2014 HYUNDAI SONATA GL	59,430	$15,349	$111
P10277	2015 CHRYSLER 200 LX	15,400	$15,499	$110
B10330	2013 HONDA CIVIC EX	39,500	$15,499	$117
P10357	2013 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT	47,918	$15,499	$111
CF0135A	2013 HONDA CIVIC EX AUTO	52,753	$15,539	$112
A6037	2011 HYUNDAI GENESIS 2.0T	94,000	$15,800	$148
TR27846	2011 FORD ESCAPE XLT 4WD	71,600	$15,950	$127
B82526	2015 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM	13,133	$15,990	$112
16T268A	2012 DODGE JOURNEY SE	25,600	$15,990	$130
P10224A	2013 VW BEETLE 2.5 AUTO	29,500	$15,999	$115
P10253	2011 FORD RANGER SPORT	61,000	$15,999	$151
B82513	2011 FORD RANGER SPORT 4X4	57,437	$16,990	$134
16105	2013 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN	57,724	$16,990	$119
4626	2015 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM	19,500	$17,990	$117
G-936A	2011 FORD EDGE SE	120,825	$17,990	$142
B82491	2013 FORD ESCAPE SE AWD	92,401	$18,490	$129
B10304	2012 TOYOTA RAV4 AWD	79,670	$18,499	$149
B82452	2013 FORD ESCAPE SE 2.0	88,088	$18,998	$133
T21438	2012 F150 XLT CREW 4X4	89,650	$19,990	$162
F-1656A	2012 FORD EXPLORER 4X4	108,500	$19,995	$162

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STK#	YEAR/MODEL	KM'S	PRICE	BW PAYMENT
G-372A	2013 NISSAN ROGUE 2.5 AWD	62,942	$20,990	$146
W10366	2013 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM	97,661	$20,999	$150
B5994	2015 DODGE JOURNEY SXT	33,600	$21,990	$158
B6028	2011 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT	69,000	$21,990	$178
F-1268A	2012 F150 XLT CREW 4X4	141,500	$21,990	$177
SG0252A	2012 HONDA CR-V EX-L AWD	94,181	$22,037	$178
F-143A	2014 E250 CARGO VAN	48,787	$22,950	$159
G-613A	2013 VE TIGUAN AWD	51,426	$22,950	$159
27825	2012 LINCOLN MKT AWD	121,192	$22,950	$180
F-2630A	2011 RAM 1500 SLT 4X4	104,000	$22,990	$181
GK-93A	2015 JEEP CHEROKEE NORTH	12,170	$22,990	$159
PG0520A	2013 CHEVY EQUINOX LT AWD	28,039	$23,849	$157
G-736A	2012 F150 XLT CREW 4X4	91,549	$23,990	$193
F-2699A	2012 RAM 1500 ST HEMI	70,626	$23,990	$188
BF6405	2012 RAM 1500 SLT 4X4	42,575	$24,847	$200
TR27858	2013 F150 XLT LWB 4X4	97,220	$24,990	$172
27896	2012 F150 XTR LWB 4X4	76,308	$24,990	$196
G-320B	2012 RAM 1500 SLT CREW	87,000	$24,995	$197
4643	2011 MUSTANG GT COUPE	48,000	$26,990	$217
F-1851A	2011 MUSTANG GT CONV.	43,500	$27,990	$224

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13/14= 84 MONTHS; 2012= 72 MONTHS; 2011=60 MONTHS; 2009/10= 48 MONTHS; 2008 OR PRIOR=36 MONTHS) COST OF BORROWING EXAMPLE= $1,281 (STK B10261). ALL OFFERS END 04/24/16 AT 4PM. NO EXTENSIONS.

ENVIRONMENT

Canada gets a 'D' on eco-report card

A new report suggests Canada ranks 14th among 16 peer countries when it comes to environmental performance, with only the United States and Australia doing worse.

The report by the Conference Board of Canada on Thursday gives Canada a "D" grade based on nine indicators covering climate change, air pollution, and freshwater management.

On climate change, the agency says with 20.7 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per capita, Canada's greenhouse gas emissions are among the highest, with only the U.S. and Australia faring worse.

However, Canada gets an "A" rating for low-emitting electricity generation. The report says with nearly 80 per cent of Canada's electricity being generated from low-emitting sources such as hydro and nuclear power, Canada is behind only Norway, Switzerland, France and Sweden.

Most of Canada's provinces rank poorly in the agency report, with only Ontario earning a "B" grade. Quebec, British Columbia, and P.E.I. are given a "C" grade, Manitoba scored a "D" and Saskatchewan, Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were rated "D-minus."

The Conference Board says while some of the poor grades can be explained by a large land mass, cold climate and resource-intensive economy, the results suggest there is a long way to go towards improvement.

"These results show that Canada needs to encourage more sustainable consumption," said Louis Theriault, the Conference Board's vice-president for public policy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Facebook now offers group calling

Facebook has rolled out a new Messenger feature that allows users to make group calls. Users may have noticed the appearance of a phone icon in group conversations. Users can move group Facebook message threads over to a group call by tapping on the icon and initiating a call. The feature makes Facebook Messenger more competitive with the likes of Google Hangouts, Skype and Slack. AFP

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NATURAL GAS: $2.068 US (–0.1¢)
DOW JONES: 17,982.52 (–113.75)

'I do' comes with considerable costs

WEDDINGS

Small things add up and can blow a budget, planner says

ISTOCK

Whoever said love doesn't cost a thing wasn't planning a wedding.

Recently engaged couple Camille Verschooris and Andrew Lounsbury knew tying the knot was expensive but they didn't realize how pricey it could be until they found out their $30,000 budget wasn't enough to cut it for the wedding of their dreams.

"The budget got thrown out of the window quickly," said Verschooris, a 24-year-old producer's assistant.

"What we imagined was very different than what we could afford," added 29-year-old Lounsbury.

The couple was faced with a big decision: Do they scale back or do they bite the bullet? Ultimately — with help from their parents — they decided to splurge on a wedding they would want to attend, complete with a guest photo booth and a $1,200 espresso bar.

For Verschooris, the greatest sticker shock was not from the big-ticket items like the wedding gown ($5,000) or the photographer (another $5,000), but it was how quickly the small expenses added up. Having lights and sound at a wedding and bringing in the linens, china and decorations are considered extra requests — and come with accompanying fees.

Wedding planner Rebecca Chan says one of the biggest costs for a wedding is a venue. For example, a wedding venue in downtown Toronto can charge between $150 to $300 per person, just for the meal.

Chan recommends couples multiply that figure by the number of guests attending and getting a full cost estimate of everything they need for the venue — from chair rentals to speakers — for a more realistic idea of the final bill.

Then add up all the miscellaneous costs like hiring an officiant, coat check and transportation to and from the ceremony site, she said.

"These are not usually the first things you think of when you're planning your wedding," said Chan.

To keep down costs, she suggests couples think about booking their wedding during the off-season, between November to April and on a Friday or Sunday night. Doing so can save couples as much as 20 per cent compared to having a summer wedding on a Saturday night.

For Verschooris and Lounsbury, they now expect their June wedding to cost around $50,000.

"If you were more aware of what things actually cost when you went in, you'd come up with a more realistic budget or a better plan of what's important and what you can trim away."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MS Excel 2010 - Foundation	18	Monday and Wednesday: (6:00pm-9:00 pm) / May 30, June 1, 6, 8, 13 and 15	$120
MS Outlook 2010	12	Saturday (9:00am-3:00 pm) / June 18 and 25	$120
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Take notice that on the 29th of April, 2016 at 2:00PM o'clock in the afternoon, a hearing will take place in the Family and Youth Court, located at the Calgary Court Centre, 601, 5th Street S.W. in the City of Calgary, in the Province of Alberta. A Director under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for a Custody Order and a Temporary Guardianship Order on a matter in which you are interested. You are requested to be present at the hearing, by order of the Court, your whereabouts being unknown, substitutional service of notice of this hearing was ordered by publication of one notice in this newspaper. You have the right to be represented by legal counsel. An order may be made in your absence in accordance with the practice of the Court.

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ACADEMIC CHILL
Wimpy lab mice like to be toasty. They can get cold stress even at 20 to 26 C, possibly skewing study results.

DECODED Mass Extinction

WERE THE DINOSAURS ALREADY DOOMED?

Any school kid can tell you what did the dinos in: The massive impact of a 10-kilometre-wide space rock near present-day Chicxulub, Mexico, 66 million years ago. But new research suggests all was not well in dino-land long before the asteroid apocalypse hit. **Here's why**.

DINO DECLINE

Biologists at the University of Reading put together dino family trees from the available fossil evidence. Then they used advanced statistics to draw conclusions about how many new species were emerging, and how many were going extinct. They found that **dinosaurs were starting to decline at least 40 million years before the asteroid hit** — that's when the rate of speciation (formation of new species) fell below the rate of extinction.

ASTEROID ADAPTATION

Why does this matter? Because with fewer species, there's less genetic diversity, and with less diversity, it's harder for a species to adapt to changes — like, say, the impact of an asteroid that tosses enough dust in the air to block the sun and change the weather. Would the dinos still be here if that fateful asteroid never hit? We'll never know.

CONTINENTAL CRACK-UP

The authors guess the separating supercontinents Laurasia and Gondwana may have contributed to the decrease in speciation. Dinos couldn't migrate around and interbreed as much anymore, and those are factors that help create variety, and, eventually, new species.

SOURCE: DINOSAURS IN DECLINE TENS OF MILLIONS OF YEARS BEFORE THEIR FINAL EXTINCTION. PNAS, 04/18/2016 PHOTO: ISTOCK

CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

I still don't get quantum computing. Help!

I didn't understand Justin Trudeau's spiel on quantum computing. What is a quantum computer exactly?
— Dorothy, Ottawa

You're not alone in your confusion, trust me. Quantum computers are still mostly in the realm of theory. There's no quantum computer remotely close to as functional or easy-to-use as your home computer.

But the potential of quantum computing is really exciting, because conventional computers are nearly as small as they can physically get.

And super small things (tinier than an atom) and really big things (like a planet), don't appear to follow the physical laws that govern our everyday experience of the world.

In the teeny-tiny quantum sphere, the same object can be in two different states — both "up" and "down" for example — at the same time. And one thing can be in two very different places at once, too. (That's quantum entanglement).

Ordinary computing comes down to a long string of bits that are in one of two states, zero or one. But quantum systems can be in many states at once, making it possible to do complex calculations with crazy big numbers regular computers can't handle.

So, Dorothy, there's a reason quantum computing is so baffling. It's not like anything else we experience — at least, not anything else I can think of. Quantum stuff makes my head spin, and not in a good way.

This goes to show how much science can benefit from integrating concepts and practices from other disciplines, like literature. An exquisite metaphor can give you an "Aha! I get it!" moment better than any academic paper can. Literature people: Get on it!

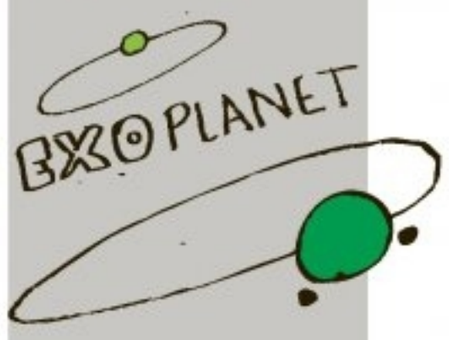
Science Question? Tweet @genna_buck

FINDINGS
Your week in science

GIANT SPACE BUBBLE
NASA's Hubble telescope has photographed a massive bubble — seven light-years across — being blown into space by a super-hot, extremely heavy star. The Bubble Nebula is 7,100 light-years away, in the constellation Cassiopeia.

ARTIFICIAL MUSCLE
Muscles; Mother Nature's miracle. They stretch by up to 70 per cent and heal themselves. Chemists at Stanford University have made a synthetic muscle that works the same way: Cut it into two stretchy slices, and the cut sides fuse back together perfectly.

SOUND SMART



DEFINITION
An exoplanet is a planet that orbits a star other than our own sun. Nearly 2,000 exoplanets in 1,200 solar systems have been confirmed by NASA.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
"I'd like to colonize another world, like Matt Damon in The Martian. Maybe there's an **exoplanet** out there that's hospitable to life."

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#2151213	2015 CHEVROLET SILVERADO– 2LT CREW CAB Z71	MSRP $53,890	CASH PRICE $42,645
#2151296	2015 CHEVROLET SILVERADO– 2LZ CREW CAB Z71	MSRP $67,215	CASH PRICE $54,395
#215689	2015 GMC SIERRA CREW CAB– 4WD	MSRP $47,040	CASH PRICE $36,795
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Born a rock star

Prince Rogers Nelson created a gender- and genre-bending blend of rock, funk and soul all his own

From left: Prince performs during the halftime show at the Super Bowl in 2007; Prince at the Grammys last year; and the artist performing with Beyonce in 2004. CHRIS O'MEARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES; FRANK MICELOTTA/GETTY IMAGES

OBITUARY

The legendary musical chameleon has died at age 57

Prince could play guitar like Carlos Santana or Jimi Hendrix, sing like James Brown, turn out pop melodies worthy of Motown or lay down the deepest grooves this side of Sly and the Family Stone. But no one could mistake his sound for anyone but Prince.

The dazzlingly talented and charismatic singer, songwriter, arranger and instrumentalist who died Thursday at his home drew upon the history of modern popular music and created a gender- and genre-defying blend of rock, funk and soul. With hits including 1999, Purple Rain and Little Red Corvette, Prince's records sold more than 100 million copies and earned him Grammys and an Oscar.

The Minneapolis native stood just 5 feet, 2 inches, yet made a powerful visual impact at the dawn of the MTV era, proving to be the Little Richard for the '80s, from his wispy moustache and tall pompadour to his colorful and suggestive outfits — the counterpart to the openly erotic lyrics that made him one of the most sexually daring artists of the era.

But his greatest legacy was as a musician, summoning original and compelling sounds at will, whether playing guitar in a flamboyant style that drew on Hendrix, switching his vocals from a nasally scream to an erotic falsetto. Among his other notable releases: Sign O' the Times, and Graffiti Bridge.

"He rewrote the rulebook, forging a synthesis of black funk and white rock that served as a blueprint for cutting-edge music in the Eighties," reads his dedication in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The 57-year-old superstar passed away Thursday at his home in Minneapolis. The local sheriff said deputies found Prince unresponsive in an elevator late Thursday morning, but that first responders couldn't revive him.

"I am confirming that Prince, the legendary iconic performer, has died at his home this morning at Paisley Park," his publicist, Yvette Noel-Schure, told The Associated Press.

No details about what may have caused his death have been released. Prince postponed a concert in Atlanta on April 7, saying he had fallen ill with the flu, and he apologized to fans during a make-up concert last week. An autopsy is scheduled for Friday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Few artists have influenced the sound and trajectory of popular music more distinctly, or touched quite so many people with their talent. President Barack Obama

THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

Then there's Keanu Reeves, who speaks approximately 10 words in the film in between brooding and maniacal laughing

That we know relatively little about the most famous — and most performed —playwright in the world is astounding.

And what scant documentary evidence does exist is dissected and over-interpreted until all you have are the plays themselves, which "would scarcely have survived if his friends and fellow actors had not gathered together every scrap of every play they could find," the Guardian wrote.

And then they too are ripped apart and put back together again in the hopes of knowing Shakespeare.

April 23 is the 400th anniversary of his death and the world is celebrating: Books, both new and reissued, on the Bard are being published, film adaptations will be screened — from Franco Zeffirelli's Romeo and Juliet to looser interpretations including Ran (King Lear) and 10 Things I Hate About You (The Taming of the Shrew) — exhibitions held, and, of course, theatre companies will stage his 37 comedies, tragedies and histories.

At our house? We'll feud like the Montagues and Capulets over which Kenneth Branagh adaptation to watch.

There is a lot of love in our house for the man who's adapted, directed, and often starred in, five Shakespeare plays for the big screen.

"It's fascinating how different generations get Shakespeare through the leading interpreters of their day," Simon said as I plated up dinner, a made-up casserole consisting of polenta, peppers and spicy Italian sausage, which tasted great but looked like garbage.

"The day changes, and so does the interpretation. For our parent's generation it was Shakespeare as he existed through Laurence Olivier and John Gielgud. For us, it's through K-Bran."

THE MOVIE: Much Ado About Nothing

THE MEAL: Casserole

"Excuse me?"

"That's what we're calling Kenneth in this house from now on, FYI."

Fine, but which K-Bran production to watch? I suggested Henry V, Branagh's directorial debut (he turned 28 while filming it!) that scored him Oscar nominations for best director and best actor, if only to revisit the end when he carries a young Christian Bale over his shoulder in that four-minute-long single tracking shot, a move that would become the director's trademark.

But Simon argued for Hamlet — the four-hour-long unabridged Hamlet — so, no.

We settled on a comedy, Much Ado About Nothing.

"This is perfect," Simon said once we started. "It's set in Tuscany and we're having a Tuscan-inspired meal."

"Ah, polenta is not Tuscan," I said.

"Stop talking because you're missing all the bulges," he said, as men on horseback in tight white pants filled the screen.

"You stop because you're missing Denzel Washington!"

"Impossible," he said. "I can't take my eyes off him."

"I can't take my eyes off their teeth," I replied. "I'm pretty sure Emma Thompson and Kate Beckinsale have since had their choppers fixed."

And then there's Keanu Reeves, who speaks approximately 10 words in the film in between brooding and maniacal laughing.

"Wouldn't you love to get K-Bran drunk and get him to talk about that casting?" Simon asked. "I mean, I know he's good looking but he's not so good looking that you're distracted and miss the fact that he can't act."

"I kind of like him," I said, "in the same way that I enjoy Drew Barrymore: It's like they're both playing dress-up, or acting in a school play. It's charming."

"God K-Bran is funny," Simon said. "Can you imagine when he's old enough to do King Lear?"

"Actually, it's Shakespeare that's funny," I said. "But K-Bran's got a good sense of humour. I mean, he directed Thor."

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

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The bad thing about beauty

ANALYSIS

Charlize Theron GQ gaffe out of character

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

In polite society no one would dare ask a stranger about his or her father's violent death, but celebrity culture is not polite society.

Over the years I've heard interviewers ask questions ranging from the innocuous —"What are you wearing?"— to the silly — "How do you keep your bum in such great shape?"— but rarely have I heard anything as unnecessarily meddling as the query aimed at Charlize Theron during a press conference I hosted several years ago.

A reporter asked the actress about seeing her mother shoot her abusive, alcoholic father dead when she was a teenager. But instead of breaking down Theron said, "I'm not talking about that," with an icy finality that made everyone freeze.

I admired her for not over sharing, not spilling the intimate details of her life. She's careful what she says to the press, avoids scandal and damage controls the ones that inevitably pop up in every celeb's life. For instance, recently she said, short and sweetly, "We both decided to separate," when accused of "ghosting" on her romance with Sean Penn.

She understands some things should only be spoken about when and where she chooses and not at the behest of an aggressive reporter looking to dredge up painful memories for the sake of "good television." Theron is media savvy so I was surprised a few weeks ago when she caused a media hurly burly with comments about the burden of being beautiful.

Chatting up her new film The Huntsman: Winter's War with British GQ she said, "How many roles are out there for the gorgeous, BLEEPINGing, gown-wearing eight-foot model? When meaty roles come through, I've been in the room and pretty people get turned away first."

She is a beautiful woman, that is clear, but is she intimating that being beautiful has harmed her career?

Turns out she wasn't, or so she claims. Alleging a misquote, she later apologized, saying that playing "deconstructed characters" appeals because, "how many characters really are there out there for a woman wearing a gown? You have to play real people."

The mea culpa was unnecessary. She works in a business where beauty is a commodity.

The problem with her earlier statement is that publicly acknowledging one's own looks carries with it a hint of arrogance, a suggestion that winning the genetic lottery somehow makes you superior, but she simply said something others already have.

Keira Knightley claims she almost lost the role in Pride and Prejudice because the director thought she was too pretty and Jessica Biel says being Esquire's 2005 Sexiest Woman cost her work.

Theron may have missed out on a job or two because of her looks, but it's also an element of what made her a star.

That and talent, and just as you wouldn't apologize for skin colour or having red hair or being tall or short, she doesn't need to say sorry for being beautiful.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

The Huntsman: Winter's War	★
A Hologram for a King	★★
Hello, My Name is Doris	★★★
Sing Street	★★★★
The Devil's Horn	★★★★

HOW RATING WORKS	
★★★★	SEE IT
★★★	WORTHWHILE
★★	UP TO YOU
★	SKIP IT

Charlize Theron recently came under fire for complaining there's no serious roles for beautiful, gown-wearing women. CONTRIBUTED

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More Canadians headed to Cannes

MOVIES

Kim Nguyen and Nathan Morlando will screen at fest

Two more Canadian features are headed to next month's 2016 Cannes Film Festival.

Snowy romance Two Lovers and a Bear, directed by Montreal's Oscar-nominated Kim Nguyen (War Witch), and thriller Mean Dreams by Toronto's Nathan Morlando (Edwin Boyd: Citizen Gangster), have been selected for world premieres in the fest's Directors' Fortnight parallel section, which runs May 12 to 22.

Two Lovers and a Bear, Nguyen's first English-language film, is set on Baffin Island in the Nunavut town of Iqaluit. It stars Dane DeHaan (Life) and Canada's Tatiana Maslany (TV's Orphan Black) as Roman and Lucy, who strike sparks in dangerous frozen terrain.

Mean Dreams is described as a coming-of-age story on the run. It stars Josh Wiggins (Hellion) and Quebec's Sophie Nélisse (The Book Thief) as Casey and Jonas, teenagers fleeing broken homes, who steal cash from Casey's father, a bad cop played by Bill Paxton. Canadian actors Colm Feore and Kevin Durand co-star.

Nguyen told a news conference Tuesday about the challenges of filming in Timmins, Ont., and Nunavut.

"This was a story that we absolutely decided we had to do in the Arctic," Nguyen said, adding green screens and studio settings wouldn't do. That meant dealing with wild weather: temperatures sometimes dipped to between -40 C and -50 C with very high winds.

"It came to the point where my makeup artist would literally grab my shoulder and say, 'You have 30 seconds,'" Nguyen said. He also described a scene — a sort of homage to water skiing — that featured Maslany skiing on the ice and being pulled by a snowmobile.

"She literally had 30 seconds before risking severe frostbite on her face," Nguyen said.

Film staff also bore the brunt, with Nguyen recounting the bravery of the first assistant cameraman, who had to take his gloves off to remove lenses and handle equipment, and ended up with wounds where skin had fused to metal.

"That's how cold it was," Nguyen said. "But at the same time, it was very rewarding to be there and to have the actual real steam coming from their mouths."

Producer Roger Frappier paid tribute to DeHaan and Maslany, who never complained about the extreme weather.

"(They) were always ready," Frappier said. "It was really fantastic to work with those two actors who had to learn a lot of things: driving Ski-Doos, being outside when it was really, really cold, working with the bear."

> **This was a story that we absolutely decided we had to do in the Arctic**
> Two Lovers and a Bear director Kim Nguyen

The film employed a real polar bear with previous movie experience. It was driven from Vancouver for the film.

Theatregoers in Quebec and Canada should be able to see it by the end of 2016.

This brings to three the Canadian features premiering at Cannes 2016, which runs May 11 to 22.

Xavier Dolan's new drama It's Only the End of the World was announced last week as the lone Canuck challenger amongst 20 films competing for the Palme d'Or, the top prize at Cannes.

Starring Marion Cotillard, Léa Seydoux and Vincent Cassel, it's based on a play by Jean-Luc Lagarce about a long-absent writer who revisits his family home to announce his impending death.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kim Nguyen's Two Lovers and a Bear was filmed in Timmins, Ont. and Nunavut. HANDOUT

FILM BRIEF

Flatliners casting

Nina Dobrev is in talks to join Ellen Page in the reboot of Flatliners. According to Deadline, Dobrev is being tapped to play Marlo, an overachiever who is at the top of her class.

Ellen Page anchors the reboot of the 1990s original about a trio played medical students who played with death by conducting near-death experiments. AFP

Even with Tom Hanks attached to this project, filmmaker Tom Tykwer struggled to secure financing for this independent film. CONTRIBUTED

Making a movie about standing still

A HOLOGRAM FOR THE KING

Director Tom Tykwer struggled with Tom Hanks pic

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

Tom Tykwer is a busy guy. The filmmaker behind hits like 1998's Run Lola Run and Cloud Atlas isn't just set to begin shooting a busy TV drama called Berlin Babylon, but he's also about to release his latest big-screen hit.

It's a whirlwind schedule the likes of which Tykwer's never entertained before.

"I'm in the eye of the storm," laughed the 50-year-old German auteur from a Berlin taxi ultimately en route to the world premiere of A Hologram for the King in Manhattan. "Its unfortunate the release date ended up coinciding with the (TV show) but it's a very decadent, luxurious problem to have."

Ironically, Tykwer's frantic situation doesn't remotely resemble that of the protagonist in his new movie. Based on author Dave Eggers' bestseller, A Hologram for the King follows a has-been salesman (Tom Hanks) around Saudi Arabia where he aims to seal a huge development deal but ends up stalled in the sand endlessly awaiting a meeting that never happens.

BIG DREAMS

The influence of King Kong on the director:
"I was probably 11 when I saw that movie, and it was one of those situations when I realized that there was (someone behind it)," said Tykwer of the film that first drew him to directing. "I was overwhelmed by the idea that this could actually be a profession."

"I loved the idea of a dynamic movie of someone who basically runs into a wall and stops," said Tykwer.

"His whole life comes to a halt and I loved the challenge to make that the most dynamic film I've done since Run Lola Run."

Making a film about "standing still" was not a painless movie to get produced either. In fact, even with a name like Tom Hanks attached, Tykwer still struggled for modest financing because "the whole market of independent filmmaking on a slightly larger canvas, it's the hardest battlefield at the moment — you have to be really, really low-budget or over $200 (million)."

Still, there's no doubt that what may lure many moviegoers to shell out for the comic allegory about middle-class angst is Tom Hanks.

Now having worked twice with the star (Cloud Atlas, this), Tykwer feels he's unearthed one of the mysteries of the Oscar-winning thespian.

"The secret is similar to what you project on him: He is insanely relatable," explained Tykwer.

"There's an openness that happens with him that I've not actually experienced elsewhere and I don't know even how aware he is of it. It's just something he instinctively knows how to do."

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Fleshing out classic tales

Mowgli, portrayed by Neel Sethi, and Raksha the wolf, voiced by Lupita Nyong'o, appear in a scene from, The Jungle Book. HANDOUT

> **Take old myths, old stories, old archetypes, old characters and do it using cutting-edge technology**
>
> The Jungle Book's director Jon Favreau

TREND

Disney hits the jackpot with fairy tales brought to life

Disney's production line for the coming years will see the company doubling down on a strategy of dusting off animated classics for live-action remakes or reboots that has so far netted more than $2 billion.

The latest offering, The Jungle Book, debuted last Friday and has extended Disney's winning streak, grossing more than $300 million worldwide over the weekend and trouncing the competition in North America.

Over the coming months, Alice Through the Looking Glass and Beauty and the Beast will fill theaters and the wallets of shrewd studio executives, with several more adaptations reportedly in the pipeline.

Even casual moviegoers will have spotted that Disney's back catalogue of fairy tales has been raided in recent years for moneyspinners like Alice in Wonderland, Cinderella and Maleficent, which made a combined $2.5 billion.

Shawn Robbins, a senior analyst at BoxOffice.com, said it was "not a stretch of the imagination" to envisage the company revisiting most of its classic animations.

The Hollywood trade press have been buzzing with rumors and half-confirmed stories about Dumbo, Pinocchio, Cruella, Genies — a riff on Aladdin — and many other fairy tales which could make it once again to the big screen.

Disney declined to comment on its long-term strategy, but analysts say the writing is on the wall for the future.

"In Disney's case, the appeal of remakes to moviegoers is still in its prime. Twenty years from now, that may not be the case. Twenty years after that, who knows?" Robbins told AFP.

Producing a successful remake, according to Robbins, is a delicate balancing act between coming up with new and interesting ways to tell familiar stories, and honoring "the heart and spirit" of the original characters.

"The general assumption is that Hollywood remakes things because it's an easy way to make money, but it's far from easy to be successful on both the artistic and commercial fronts," he said.

Old stories

Starring newcomer Neel Sethi as Mowgli, The Jungle Book employed the talents of Hollywood heavyweights Bill Murray, Ben Kingsley and Idris Elba for the voices of Baloo the bear, Bagheera the panther and Shere Khan the tiger.

The film's director Jon Favreau, who was also at the helm for two of the Iron Man movies, told AFP that modern-day Disney was merely following what the likes of its co-founder Walt Disney and Star Wars director George Lucas had always done.

"Take old myths, old stories, old archetypes, old characters and do it using cutting-edge technology," said Favreau, 49, who has producing credits for numerous blockbusters, including both Avengersfilms.

$2.5 billion

The combined box office of Disney's live action Alice in Wonderland, Cinderella and Maleficent AFP

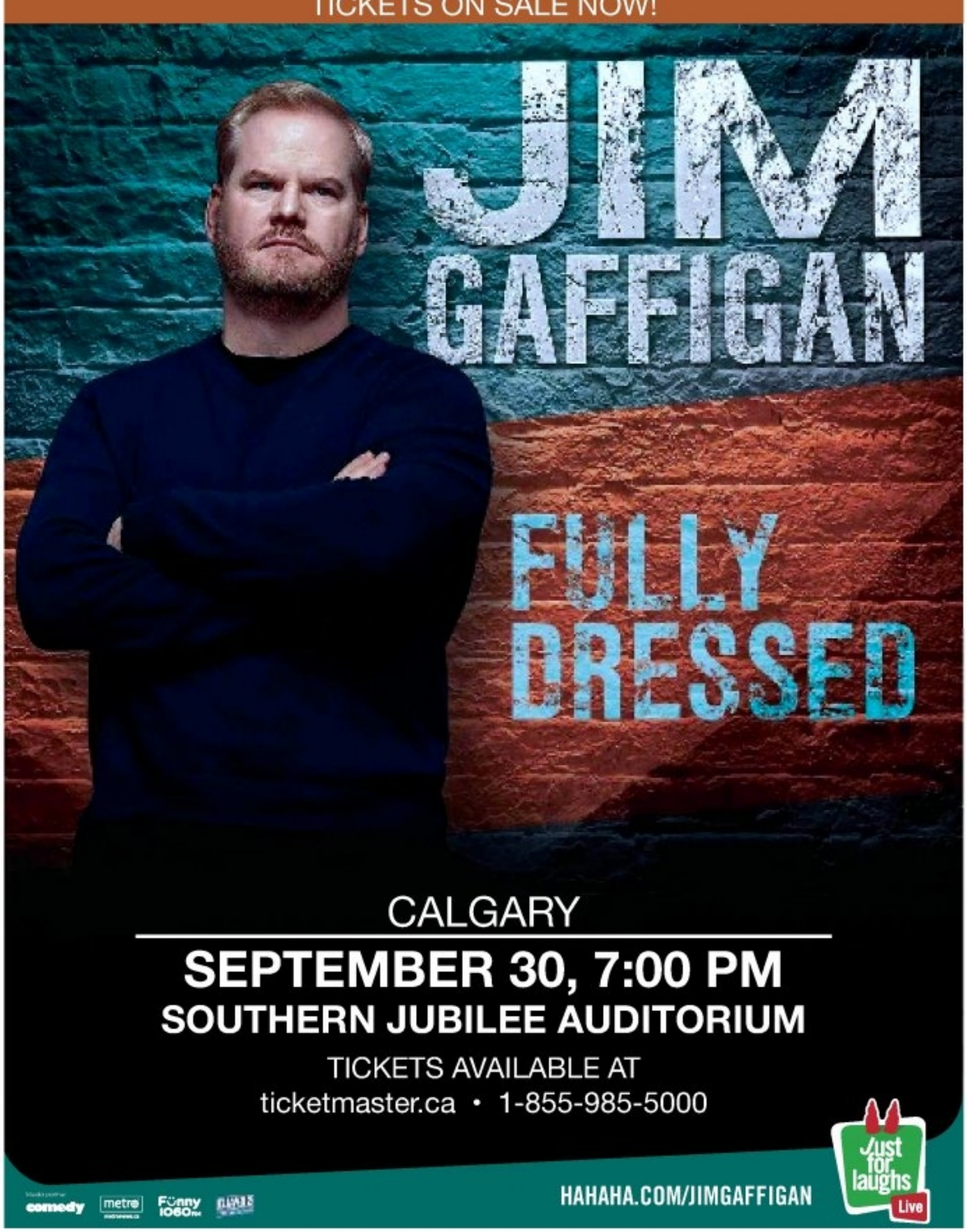
Star Wars, he says, repackaged elements of Arthurian legend, westerns and the films of Japanese master Akira Kurosawa — "the princess being rescued and the loveable rogue, the father who's the king, the dark prince and the struggle between good and evil."

"Walt Disney would do the same thing. He would find the old fairy tales like Snow White – these are old stories," he told AFP.

Hollywood producer Suzanne Todd — who was behind 2010's Alice in Wonderland and has been producing its sequel — said there was "something lovely" about fairy tale adaptations, and particularly last year's Cinderella.

"There's a charm to the original movie and there's an inspirational quality that comes out of it," she told AFP at a recent event to publicize Disney's Alice Through The Looking Glass, which comes out next month.

"I just thought Kenneth Branagh made it lush and romantic and accessible." AFP



The cost of being super

You might want to rethink that superhero career once you start adding up the cost of going to work. Forget about the price of dry cleaning a super suit made icky and sweaty after a day of saving the world. We're talking serious coin to get kitted out for taking on power-mad evil-doers. Here's a rundown of estimated costs (all in U.S. dollars) for some superhero favourites. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

$682,450,750

Batman

"Where does he get those wonderful toys?" Jack Nicholson's Joker wondered in Tim Burton's 1989 Batman. But it's not the toys that ratchet up the Batbill, according to an infographic from MoneySuperMarket. They only figure **$213,000** for items like the grappling hook launcher, plus **$10K** for weapons. It's the house — **$600 million** alone to rebuild stately Wayne Manor and its basement Batcave, but that can be amortized; don't want to sound cheap. Transportation adds another **$80 million** for caped crusader's Tumbler, Batpod and flying Bat. Parking is extra.

$8,555

Clark Kent/Superman

NetVoucherCodes.co.uk did some costing out on Clark Kent and found it costs **$8,555** a year to be the mild-mannered reporter, which strikes our newsroom as pretty high. But then, we get free notebooks at work. While Hollywood.com adds in his **$35,000**-a-year salary on the Daily Planet, it also points out that supe's suit doesn't cost a thing in Earth dough because it comes from Kryptron. The only Superman cost the site could identify was hair gel. And lots of it

$550

The Hulk

The green guy sticks to torn trousers, probably available on deep discount or at Value Village. Even if they have to be replaced every time he gets annoyed, it's not a big commitment, say **$550** for a couple of meltdowns a week if the Hulk buys in bulk. Cost for grooming: **$0**. Have you seen that haircut?

$55,114,220

Steve Rogers/Captain America

London-based party planners Twizzle figured Cap's uniform is only worth **$3,720**. And even the **$516,000** cost for Project Rebirth that morphed him from Steve Rogers into the square-jawed crime fighter pales next to the sticker price on his shield: **$54 million**. The 5.5 kilogram disc is created from the made-up material called Vibranium. So it also has a made-up price. According to Fantastic Four issue #607, it's **$10,000** per gram.

$10,086,485,000

Iron Man

MoneySuperMarket also crunched the numbers for Iron Man 3 and found the cost had skyrocketed since Iron Man 2. And that was before the price of cauliflower went through the roof. So just add a few zeroes for Tony Stark's appearance in Captain America: Civil War. Most of it comes from the suits (**$7 billion**) with gadgets that include a nuclear power source and wrist-mounted anti-tank missile launchers. But then there's also the ill-fated **$25 million** Stark Malibu mansion and his **$10 million** computer. Living well all adds up so darned fast.

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'A show for people like us' says Jones

PREMIERE

Actor on working with his wife on The Detour

Jason Jones and Natalie Zea are shown in a still image from the comedy Detour . HANDOUT

Canadian comic Jason Jones became a U.S. citizen in 2014 and is looking forward to casting his first ballot south of the border during the upcoming election.

But The Daily Show alum admits he doesn't long for his past life as a correspondent out on the campaign trail for the satirical news show — even during the much buzzed-about presidential race.

"Not one ounce of me wants to be out there talking to people," Jones says with a laugh in a phone interview from New York. "I just don't miss it at all.

"It's great for the viewer. You watch a five-minute piece about (Donald) Trump supporters and you laugh and you think it's funny. But we as performers have to sit with them and interview them. It's awful for us."

Jones is now firmly in the driver's seat as star of the raunchy road trip comedy series The Detour. And behind the scenes, the Hamilton-born star has familiar company revving the creative engine of the production.

Jones's wife and fellow Daily Show alum Samantha Bee serves as a co-creator and writer of The Detour, which premieres Thursday on The Comedy Network.

"The whole show started from the idea of this husband and wife that truly love one another, and they actually enjoy spending time with their kids. But we wanted to bend them as far as we could before they broke. And what better way to bend anyone (than) by throwing them in a car for a 1,700-mile trip? And that's what we did for 10 episodes."

The series premiere introduces Jones as Nate, who sets off with his wife Robin (Natalie Zea) and 11-year-old twins Delilah and Jared (Ashley Gerasimovich and Liam Carroll) on a vacation on wheels from New York to Florida.

But the road to the Sunshine State is littered with misadventures and mishaps as the family encounters a host of quirky characters in unexpected and often unseemly situations.

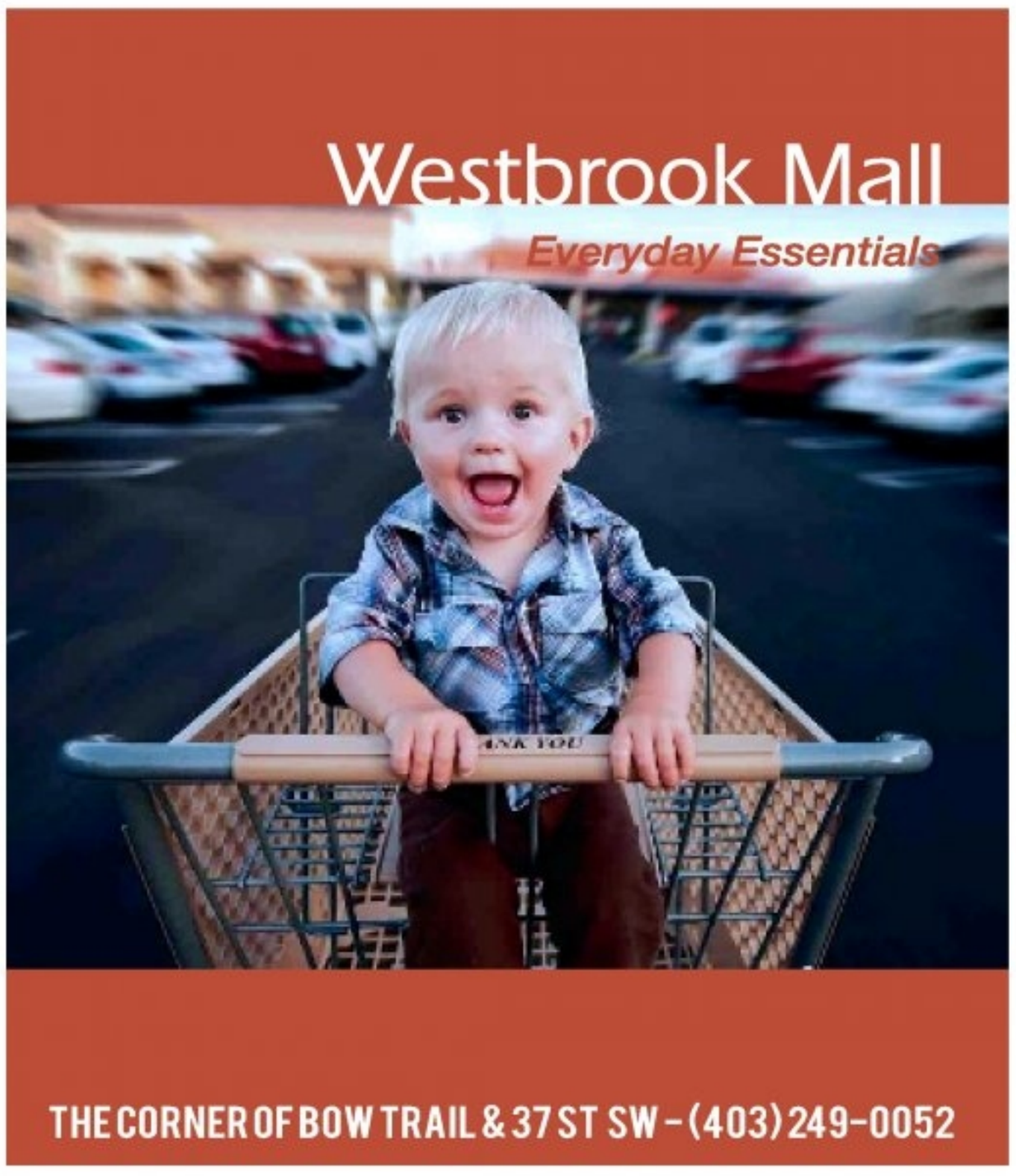
The Detour brings a decidedly adult twist to the family comedy format, with its share of suggestive humour punctuated with sweeter moments.

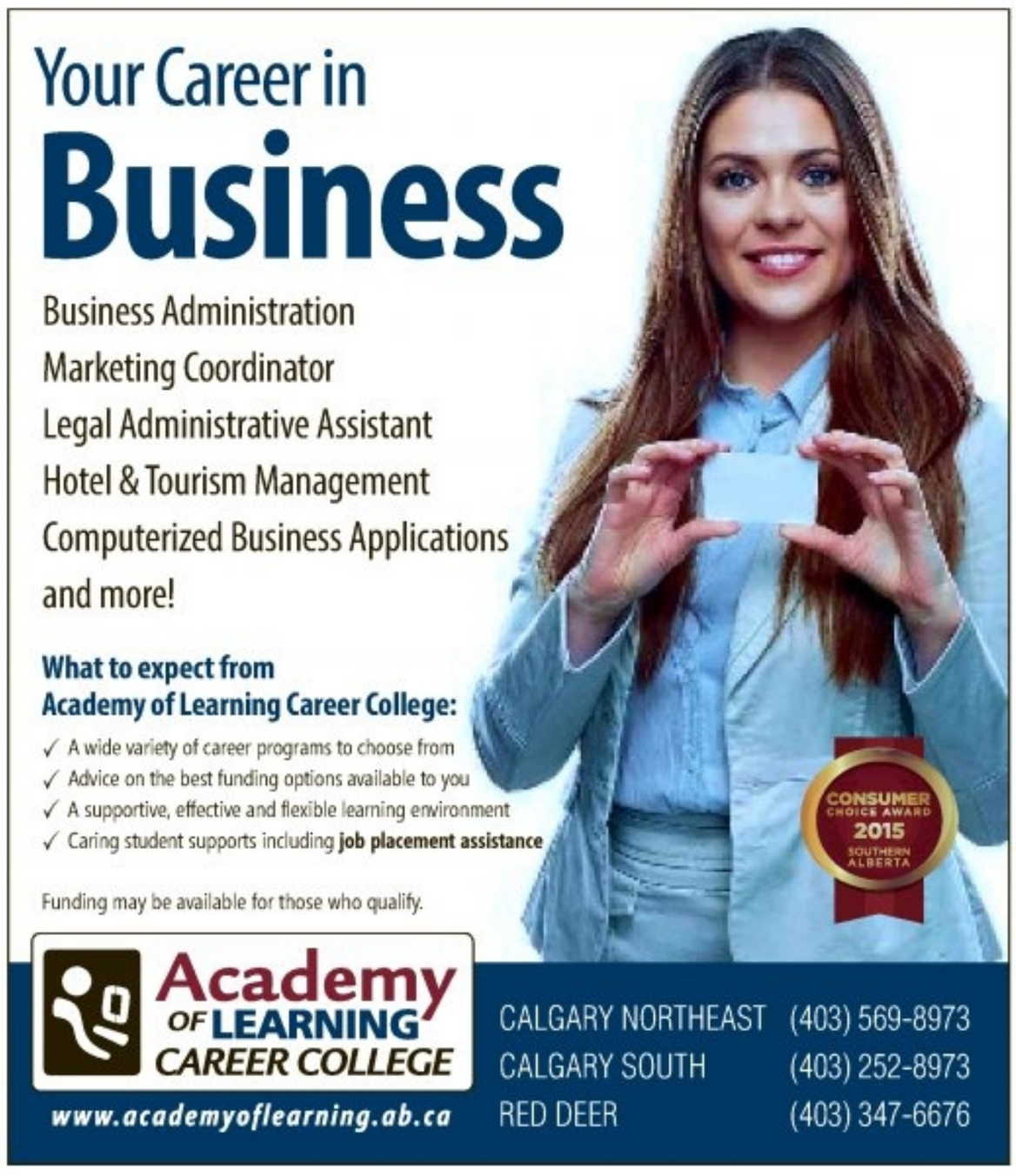
"We initially saw it as a show for people like us: parents who put their kids to bed at 9 and want to watch an adult program that doesn't talk down to them. (A show) that has their level of humour but is about them," says Jones, father to seven-year-old son Fletcher, and daughters Piper, 10, and Ripley, 5.

"As we went along with the series, I think it appeals to anyone that just likes funny situations," adds Jones.

"You don't have to have a family to find any of this funny. I think it's a cliche to say there's something for everyone. But certainly, the humour runs a giant spectrum of gross-out gags to subtler humour to irreverent humour, to stuff that you're going to have to watch twice to understand."

THE CANADIAN PRESS





Netflix invests big in beating back HBO

BUSINESS

Streaming service doubles funds for programming

The 2013 debut of House of Cards kicked off Netflix's push for original programming. HANDOUT

Look out, HBO. Netflix produced more original programming than cable's premium-network leader last year, according to number provided by the two rivals. The Internet video service isn't slowing down, either, even if it risks losing subscribers to price increases that will help pay for more exclusive shows.

Since its push into original shows kicked off in earnest with the 2013 debut of House of Cards, Netflix has hit the fast-forward button. Last year, it put out 450 hours of original programming, compared to 401 from Time Warner's HBO. This year, both companies say they expect to release roughly 600 hours of original material.

HBO, of course, is the network Netflix CEO Reed Hastings set out to emulate when his service began charting a course away from streaming TV reruns and previously released movies. Ted Sarandos, the company's head of programming, famously told GQ back in 2013 that Netflix's goal was "to become HBO faster than HBO can become us."

Netflix is aiming to put itself into "an entirely different and supreme league" from its rivals, says Tom Nunan, a former TV network and studio executive who now lectures at UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television. The company's goal, he says, is to become the first global network for original shows and movies.

With Netflix now available in 190 countries, Hastings expects Netflix to surpass 100 million subscribers next year. During a review of Netflix's results on Monday, Hastings declared the company "really excited" about the boost it expects from its growing library of exclusive programs.

Amazon.com, Hulu and other services are scrambling to catch up with their own moves into original programming. Although its own original slate is only a quarter the size of Netflix's, Amazon.com can boast that its shows won more Emmy awards last year than its rival.

Netflix is counting on a vast library of original programming to help keep subscribers on board as it faces tougher competition. Amazon, for instance, just started offering its streaming-video service for $9 a month; previously, you had to sign up for the company's $100-a-year Prime service, which includes free shipping from its e-commerce site and other goodies.

Amazon is undercutting Netflix's $10 monthly price for its most popular video-streaming plan, as is Hulu, which charges $8. HBO charges $15 per month for a video-streaming service it launched last year to compete against Netflix.

Netflix will test the loyalty of its long-time subscribers next month when it starts to hike their prices 25 per cent, following a two-year freeze that kept rates at $8 per month. The increase will hit 17 million to 22 million U.S. subscribers, based on analyst estimates.

Original programming doesn't come cheap. The Los Gatos, California, company ended March with $12.3 billion committed to Internet streaming rights, nearly double the $5.6 billion it spent at the end of 2012. Netflix hasn't disclosed how much of that spending has gone toward original series and exclusive movies, but the percentage has been steadily increasing.

The cost of licensing and overseas expansion has whittled Netflix's profit margins. In its first-quarter results released late Monday, the company said it earned $28 million, or 6 cents per share, on revenue of nearly $2 billion. Investors, though, are far more focused the company's subscriber growth.

43

The number of Emmys HBO won last year, more than any other TV network and significantly more than Netflix's four prizes — one less than Amazon.com.

So far, the company has delivered. Netflix picked up an additional 6.74 million customers in the first quarter to boost its worldwide audience to 81.5 million subscribers — up from 33 million before the first season of House of Cards. Such gains helped propel Netflix's share price, which has more than quadrupled since then, creating about $36 billion in shareholder wealth.

But Netflix's stock price dropped nearly eight per cent in extended trading late Monday after the company predicted it would only add 2.5 million subscribers in the second quarter, including a gain of 500,000 customers in the U.S. The conservative forecast reflected the anticipated loss of some longtime subscribers due to the price increase.

There's a worrisome history here. In 2011, subscribers fled when Netflix split off its DVD-by-mail operation from its burgeoning streaming business, a shift that hiked prices as much as 60 per cent for some subscribers.

Netflix lost three per cent of its U.S. subscribers at the time. A similar reaction to next month's price increase might cost it 510,000 to 660,000 subscribers in the second quarter.

Analysts think a repeat is unlikely.

"I don't think you are going to see a lot of people bailing out and running for the exits," said Rosenblatt Securities analyst Martin Pyykkonen — largely because Netflix now has so many shows you can't find anywhere else.

That original programming appears to be a major draw for many subscribers. In a recent online survey of 2,500 U.S. adults conducted by Morgan Stanley, 45 per cent cited it as a reason to subscribe to Netflix.

HBO, however, still has a huge advantage over Netflix in terms of prestige.

Last year, HBO won 43 Emmys, more than any other TV network, while Netflix's original programs garnered just four — one less than Amazon.com.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A look at gender politics in

For every instance of full-frontal male nudity in GoT, there are on average at least two head-to-toe naked women in seasons one to five. Yes, we counted. But while actress Emilia Clarke calls for the HBO show to "free the penis," experts Metro spoke to say creating a genital gender parity won't actually add up to much.

Colin McNeil
Metro | Toronto

When it comes to male nudity, the revolution will be televised.

That is, if you think the recent rash of men stripping to the buff on the small screen is a revolution at all.

Earlier this year, a male full-frontal scene in BBC's War and Peace miniseries prompted Twitter to lose its mind and create the hashtag #WarAndPenis. The same thing happened in March when Tom Hiddleston's bare bum spawned #Hiddlesbum. Add full-frontal man-views from Outlander and Vinyl, and you can call it a trend.

So what about the granddaddy of gratuitous nudity — Game of Thrones? We don't know how much or what kind will be thrust upon us in Season 6, which premieres Sunday, but if the previous five are any indication, it'll be heavy on disrobing women and light on exposed manhood.

Last season was particularly unfriendly to women on screen. Christine Evans, University of British Columbia film studies lecturer, says the rape of Sansa and that Cersei Lannister scene (you know the one) were likely the last offensive straw for many viewers. Though, she notes, fans are likely to keep watching in spite of it all, "partially out of curiosity over what the show's next big regressive move will be."

She says the show "is in tenuous territory" when it comes to gender politics.

In a program infamous for baring it all, relatively few swords actually leave the scabbard. What we mean is, there just aren't all that many penises in GoT. In fact, for every instance of full-frontal male nudity, there are on average at least two head-to-toe naked women in seasons one to five.

Yes, we counted.

While the naked female body is often front and centre in Game of Thrones, most of those male moments were but fleeting glances. And, full disclosure, one was actually a baby.

Metro shared the findings of our highly unscientific nudity survey with Evans and University of Toronto Professor of media and education Megan Boler. They were "not even remotely" surprised.

"It doesn't surprise me at all," says Boler. "Popular culture, and really most cultures, have traded in and capitalized on images of naked women since time immemorial."

She talks about the 'male gaze' — the idea that pop culture presumes a heterosexual audience of men, and everything in it is meant to please them.

Emilia Clarke, whose character was stripped naked in one of the very first episodes, must have noticed this below the waist imbalance, too. And she has a solution. She proclaimed GoT needs to "free the penis" while appearing on the Conan O'Brien show last week.

Seeing a guy walking around with a huge powerful boner and smashing it into some lady's face isn't really going to help the gender politics of the show
Christine Evans,
University of British Columbia
film studies lecturer

But creating a genital gender parity won't actually add up to much, say our experts.

"Seeing a guy walking around with a huge powerful boner and smashing it into some lady's face isn't really going to help the gender politics of the show," says Evans.

The idea of "just throw more d— in for the ladies" isn't going to work. "Context matters."

In other words — breaking news — Game of Thrones is not single-handedly toppling the patriarchy any time soon.

But Boler has hope yet. If we get to see John Snow's 'Longclaw', for example, "maybe it'll make people think 'huh, now why is this surprising me?'"

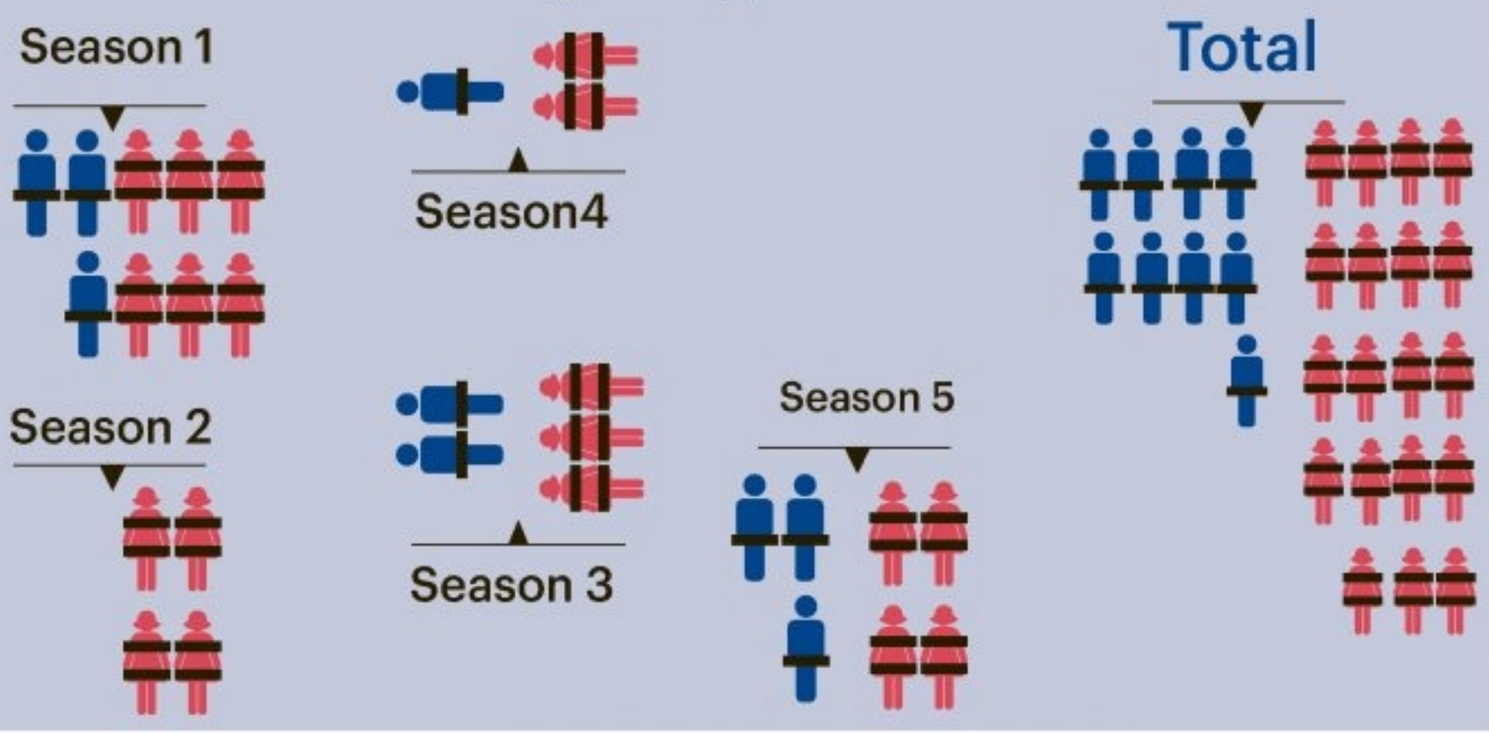
So Monday morning, while you're hovering around the online water cooler discussing GoT's latest bombshell plot twist — pause for a moment, and think of the penis.

Game of Thrones

Emilia Clarke, seen here as Daenerys Targaryen in Game of Thrones' Season 6, which premieres Sunday, has called for the show to "free the penis." COURTESY HBO/MACALL B. POLAY

MALE TO FEMALE FULL-FRONTAL RATIO

Nudity by season



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After a whirlwind two-year world tour, Canadian standup superstar Russell Peters is winding down on home soil.
CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Russell Peters back home

COMEDY

Hiatus beckons after straight-to-Netflix show at Massey Hall

After a whirlwind two-year world tour that saw him hanging out with Saudi royals and Syrian refugees, Canadian standup superstar Russell Peters is winding down on home soil.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, performances at Toronto's Massey Hall will be recorded for a Netflix special. Then after a couple of other shows next month — and an appearance on Lip Sync Battle with CeeLo Green — he'll finally start a four-month break in June to spend time with his five-year-old daughter.

"I'm kind of excited about it, actually — nervous and excited," the 45-year-old said of taking so many months off for the first time in his career.

The Brampton, Ont.-raised comic, who's known for skewering racial stereotypes, is in town after performing 250 shows in 120 cities across 25 countries for his Almost Famous World Tour — his longest and biggest yet. The Middle East has probably his biggest fanbase, "the most rabid, that's for sure," said Peters.

In Saudi Arabia, one of the show promoters was a prince and he was "treated literally like royalty by royalty." Meanwhile, in Jordan, he visited the Zaatari Syrian refugee camp on a request by the Canadian government.

He discovered the children there don't have aspirations of living in other countries, as he and many others had come to believe.

"They just want to go back to Syria," said Peters. "I get it. When you're there and you see it in their face, there's no evil in them. They're just displaced people, they just want to go home."

Peters also beefed up his acting resume while on tour, with credits including the Jon Favreau film Chef and Disney's The Jungle Book, in which he voices the peacock and Rocky the Rhino.

Peters said he picked Massey Hall for his Netflix taping because he wanted to "scale it back to a normal-sized venue" after previously recording specials at Madison Square Garden, the O2 arena, and the Allphones Arena.

"I wanted to do it in my city," he added, "and I think Massey Hall defines my city as that building has been there before all the other buildings."

This is Peters's second straight-to-Netflix special and he enjoys the freedom the platform offers.

"Regular TV, I deal with all their other corporate BS," he said. "Netflix is still run fairly loose, I would say. They let you do what you want to do and then they take the content."

In his act, he plans to riff on some Canadian topics as well as his little girl — who lives in Los Angeles with Peters's ex-wife, Monica Diaz — and the sassy nature she got from him.

"Too much of it," he said. "But it's so funny because she'll do things the exact same way I would do something, and then I try to explain to her, 'Baby, you can't pull that on me, that's exactly what I would have done. And I'm not mad at you because that's exactly what I would have done.'

120
The number of cities Peters visited in 25 countries during his two-year Almost Famous World Tour.

Peters got his start at Toronto's Yuk Yuk's comedy chain, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Founder Mark Breslin recently told The Canadian Press he feels standup comedy has "gotten really, really soft," which Peters agrees with.

"Political correctness has disallowed us to be angry," he said.

"We have to be so accepting of everything that if you have an opinion on something, it automatically means you are against these people. And that's not what it means. It means I have a preference, this is what I like and that's what they like and we can still co-exist quite fine, both liking different things."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **Political correctness has disallowed us to be angry**
> Russell Peters, on the state of standup comedy

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Illness won't stop this reality show contestant

HISTORY CHANNEL

Lion tracker with multiple sclerosis leads cast of Alone

Nicole Apelian is a cast member in the second season of the survival competition series Alone, which premiered this week. BRENDAN MEADOWS/HISTORY VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nicole Apelian first learned how to live primitively by tracking lions through the South African bush while doing academic research. More recently, she started gathering wild plants to eat to slow the progress of her multiple sclerosis.

In many ways, that made the 46-year-old native of Worcester, Massachusetts, a natural fit for the cast of Alone, a History Channel reality series that follows 10 survivalists on a remote part of Canada's Vancouver Island. Season 2 airs at 9 p.m. EDT Thursdays.

Like the rest of the show's contestants, Apelian had accrued a lifetime of outdoor experience before being placed on the island, where black bears, wolves and cougars roam freely.

Despite her disease and the dangers of mingling with predators, Apelian never questioned going on the show once History extended the offer.

"I love being in the wilderness alone — I'll admit that," she told The Associated Press in an interview.

Cast members were each dropped in separate spots on the island. Each was given six cameras for filming themselves and an emergency button to reach the producers.

"We were dropped by ourselves and we were completely alone," Apelian said. "This is a show people can watch and know there's not a whole film crew surrounding you."

For the journey, contestants were allowed to bring a set number of clothing items and choose 10 supplies that could fit in a backpack. Among Apelian's items: fishing line, a folding saw and a carbon steel knife.

The premise: Contestants try to outlast one another in the wilderness, with the last person taking home a $500,000 prize. Last season's winner managed a 56-day stay on the island.

Apelian's passion for nature dates to her childhood. She credits her stepfather for fostering a connection with nature and love of learning.

"He got me outside," Apelian said.

Now the outdoors has become a sanctuary when it comes to managing MS. She was diagnosed 16 years ago when the disease began affecting her eyesight and ability to walk.

When Apelian found traditional Western treatments didn't work, she changed course and began an herbal medicine regimen supplemented with a diet of organic and wild foods and plenty of exercise. In many ways, she said, nature offers her relief from MS.

"When I'm at a computer in the city, that's when I feel my health is negatively affected," she said.

While filming Alone, if she started to experience symptoms — such as tingling in the throat, nose and tongue — she would lie down and rest.

"I know these are warning signs my nervous system is starting to freak out," Apelian said. "But in the wilderness, there was no one there telling me what to do so I could lie down and take a nap."

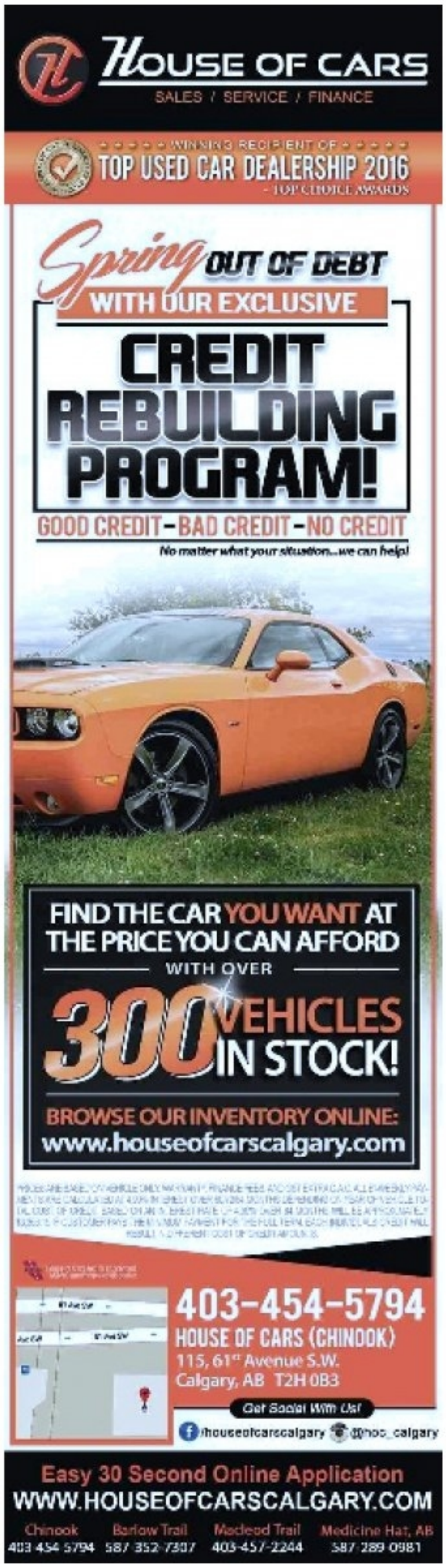
Cohabitating with wildlife and having to catch her dinner wasn't the biggest challenge. It was leaving her two young sons and boyfriend for an undetermined amount of time.

But Apelian, now living in Portland, Oregon, saw an opportunity to inspire others to push themselves.

"My goal was to thrive out there," she said. "I didn't want to just exist, I wanted to thrive and be a role model for girls and women everywhere."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **My goal was to thrive out there. I didn't want to just exist, I wanted to thrive and be a role model for girls and women everywhere**
> Nicole Apelian



Jonathan Torrens as J-Roc, left. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CANADIANA

J-Roc leaves Trailer Park Boys

Jonathan Torrens says he's packing up and leaving the trailer park behind.

The Charlottetown-born actor announced on Twitter that he will exit the cult comedy series Trailer Park Boys after 10 seasons of playing J-Roc, an aspiring white rapper who's one of the residents at the Sunnyvale Trailer Park.

Torrens tweeted that playing the character was "one of the greatest pleasures and privileges" of his life. "But it's time to hang up the ol' do-rag. Nomesayin?" he added, evoking one of his character's most popular catchphrases.

Trailer Park Boys has been one of Canada's longest-running comedies, inspiring a number of specials and spin-off movies since its premiere in 2001.

Torrens departure comes after actress Lucy DeCoutere quit the series earlier this month, saying her decision was connected to charges of misdemeanour domestic battery filed against actor Mike Smith, who plays Bubbles.

Smith has denied any wrongdoing. In a written statement he said the woman involved in the incident was a friend of his with whom he had a "loud and heated dispute."

Trailer Park Boys debuted its 10th season on Netflix last month and at least one more season is in the works.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Selena Gomez ADRIAN SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ/AFP

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Serena Williams MARK J. TERRILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Lifetime nets some big names

CABLE

Gomez, Rousey, Jackson, others to executive produce

Selena Gomez, Serena Williams, Ronda Rousey, Janet Jackson and Rebecca Minkoff are joining the Lifetime network on a slew of projects that include movie deals and digital programming.

The cable channel which skews heavily towards women, released details of its 2016-2017 programming, which features a roster of big names in the entertainment and sports industry.

Selena Gomez, for instance, will serve as executive producer on a drama inspired by her own life experiences navigating a career in Hollywood as seen through the eyes of her friends.

Serena Williams will executive produce the movie Sister Dance inspired by the annual dance-off competition she hosts with her sister Venus. In the film, two sisters become dance rivals.

Janet Jackson will also executive produce the story of a 1920s New York City mobster, based on a true story about the first and only woman gangster during the prohibition.

Ronda Rousey has signed a three-picture movie deal to bring stories that reflect empowerment to the screen.

And Alec Baldwin and Diane Lane star in Paris Can Wait, written and directed by Eleanor Coppola, based on her own romantic and traveling life.

AFP

From left, Jeremy Drury, Jon Hembrey, Darryl James, Simon Ward, David Ritter and Isabel Ritchie of The Strumbellas perform at South by Southwest Music Festival last month. GARY MILLER/GETTY IMAGES FOR GQ JAM IN THE VAN

Strumbellas have their eye on fame and fortune

TOP 40

Toronto folk band lets the beat drop like Miley Cyrus

Talk to most Canadian folk bands and they're unlikely to exude appreciation for popular dance music, or proclaim that Miley Cyrus's mega-hit Wrecking Ball influenced their sound. But the Strumbellas manage to do both in a matter of minutes.

Then again, they're not exactly your typical Canadian folk band. The Strumbellas are playing on commercial radio stations and are increasingly featured on popular streaming music playlists.

Over the past few months, the six-piece act from Toronto has emerged as another in a long line of homegrown performers with a solid chance at a global hit.

Their pop-folk track Spirits recently climbed to the upper reaches of the Canadian and U.S. rock charts, and it's also making headway in Top 40 radio play. Across the pond, the song also debuted on the Italian charts for the first time last week.

It's somewhat of a surprise breakout for the band, which formed in 2008 and laboured away in the Canadian music scene, pocketing a Juno and critical praise in the process.

Lead singer Simon Ward says making it big beyond Canada was always part of the plan.

"We weren't comfortable just being a band that played locally or just toured a little bit, or got moderate success," he says, sitting alongside the band at a Toronto bar.

"We always wanted to try and get ourselves on a worldwide level."

Three years ago the Strumbellas had to make a choice.

It was around the time of their second album, and signs were pointing towards their fanbase growing. Yet all six members of the band still held career jobs — Ward was an elementary school teacher and violinist Izzy Ritchie was a cartographer.

> **I just want (to be able) to get to a restaurant and be like: 'I'm in the Strumbellas.' And they're like: 'Oh, we can seat you, sir.'**
> Simon Ward

Others in the band worked in journalism, ran their own business, or had recently graduated university.

Sitting in their jam space one day, the group agreed it was time to get serious about making commercial music.

"(That) was when we all started sort of filtering away from our other jobs," says Ritchie.

But success came with its own unique challenges, like trying to determine when your song is actually becoming a hit.

Ward is struggling with those metrics when it comes to Spirits.

"I know it's really doing well and it's getting a lot of plays, but when does a song become ... a staple in the world?" he asks aloud to nobody in particular.

"I don't think we're there yet, and I don't know how to judge that ... I'm scared every day it's going to fizzle out tomorrow and it'll be gone."

He's keeping his goals somewhat contained in the meantime.

"I just want (to be able) to get to a restaurant and be like: 'I'm in the Strumbellas.' And they're like: 'Oh, we can seat you, sir,'" he says.

Perhaps the band's third full-length album, Hope, available Friday, will help pull a few strings.

The release is packed with soaring, hand-clapping and foot-stomping anthems, each one urging listeners to get swept away by the peaks and valleys of energy.

Ward says the band designed each song to deliver that punch — a strategy of build-and-release known in electronic music circles as a "beat drop."

"Literally we were trying to get a club sound with folk music," he says, pointing to Cyrus's chart-topping Wrecking Ball as the ultimate example.

"That was kind of the whole goal of the record, just to try and match the Wrecking Ball drop. I'm infatuated with how big of a drop a human being can make in a song."

Ward thinks the closest the Strumbellas came is on We Don't Know, a likely candidate for the second single, and the song he considers the album's best track.

The Strumbellas will spend most of the summer playing music festivals, along with a run of North American tour dates including pit stops in Toronto and Oshawa, Ont., in May and Montreal in July.

After that, the band plans to continue pushing for even bigger things.

Ritchie says she already has a few goals she'd like to check off her bucket list.

"Playing arenas and winning Grammys," she deadpans.

"There's no ceiling to our aspirations."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The many faces of Polly Jean Harvey

NEW RELEASE

With her ninth album out, Metro looks at a 24-year career

Ben Rayner
Torstar News Service

Acclaimed U.K. songstress PJ Harvey has just released her ninth album, The Hope Six Demolition Project.
MARIA MOCHNACZ/CONTRIBUTED

Now that David Bowie has shuffled off this mortal coil, P.J. Harvey might be the closest thing we've got left.

The iconoclastic English art-pop auteur released her ninth studio solo album in 24 years, the deceptively devastating agit-folk song cycle The Hope Six Demolition Project, last Friday and, once again, it didn't bother much with sounding like whatever you might expect a P.J. Harvey album to sound like — if, at this point, you still expect a P.J. Harvey album to sound anything like what she's done before.

Even Hope Six's creation was fittingly unique. Harvey cut part of the record behind one-way glass before a handful of very, very lucky fans during a month-long run of studio sessions at London's Somerset House, once the site of a Tudor palace, early last year.

And before that — as an extension of the scholarly inquiries into the human consequences of war begun with 2011's exceptional Let England Shake — she traveled to Afghanistan, Kosovo and the uglier reaches of Washington, D.C., to gain a roving diarist's appreciation of three very different locales brought to their knees by three very different types of conflict.

She walks the walk. And, with Bowie sadly gone, she's probably purest art-for-art's-sake rock 'n' roller still operating at such a level of mainstream visibility.

The cover art for PJ Harvey's scorching second album, Rid of Me. ISLAND RECORDS

The cover art for P.J. Harvey's 1998 album Is This Desire?
PHOTO CREDIT

The cover art for P.J. Harvey's first collaborative album with John Parish, Dance Hall at Louse Point.

So here's a bluffer's guide to The Many Faces of Polly Jean Harvey if you haven't been previously paying attention.

All-in art-punk outsider

P.J. Harvey's Dry was beyond comparison when it arrived in 1992 and still is today, unless you're using it in comparison to other artists. Just 22 years old and fresh from rural/coastal Dorset in England, she and a limber power trio named in her honour unintentionally caught a bit of the grunge-era femme-rock zeitgeist being ushered in by the likes of Hole, Babes in Toyland and Juliana Hatfield while dealing in a cryptic species of folk-ish punk that nakedly revelled in and/or tore apart every ideal of "femininity" in rock 'n' roll music you could think of.

Alternate-universe blues diva

The first of many extreme Harvey studio makeovers to come, 1995's To Bring You My Love — realized with help from future go-to producer Flood — distilled all the tension of her first two albums to a tightly coiled, entirely unnerving species of oozing, nightmare-blues dread that no one else has ever even tried to duplicate, in much the same way that no one ever dared go as dark as Joy Division did on Closer.

Oddly enough, Harvey's scarlet-clad persona in the Down by the Water video helped make it a sort of sleeper hit.

The new Patti Smith

There were hints of Patti on earlier albums, of course, but on 2000's sparkling Stories from the City, Stories from the Sea, Harvey landed in New York City and turned in an album that bears the unmistakable stamp of Smith's CBGBs-era output.

That's not the whole deal, of course — you can find a tether to every previous record in the Harvey catalogue here — but it's probably not an accident that she titled the penultimate tune on a record repeatedly referencing Smith's Horses, Horses In My Dreams. P.J. Harvey does nothing by accident. She won the Mercury Prize for her efforts.

Protest singer

For 2011's Let England Shake, Harvey immersed herself in Britain's long, troubling history of war and colonization and emerged with a poignant, folky denunciation of the folly of conquest and its human consequences.

She earned another Mercury Prize for her efforts. Now, five years later, she has returned to similar thematic territory, this time gilding her call-and-response singalongs with blasts of free-jazz saxophone and roiling, live-recorded blues-rock grit and grounding her anti-imperialist sentiment in on-the-ground observations drawn from voyages to Afghanistan and Kosovo, along with neglected stretches of Washington, D.C., where the American dream of "freedom and equality for all" has yet to bear fruit.

As powerful and challenging as ever. At 46, P.J. Harvey has yet to lose any steam.

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metro TRAVEL
Your essential daily news

Baby lemurs make their debut at the Bronx Zoo

5 ISLAND EXPERIENCES TO HAVE IN ANGUILLA

This semi-posh British island just north of St. Martin has one of the highest rates of repeat visitors in the Caribbean. And for good reason: the beaches are never crowded, the food is great, and the people are warm and welcoming. The off-season from May to August is a perfect time to go.

IMAGES AND TEXT DOUG WALLACE/FOR METRO CANADA

1 Hit the water

Just staring into the turquoise water on any of Anguilla's white sand beaches will keep you busy for hours. But when you tire of relaxing, **deep-sea fishing, kite surfing, paddle boarding, kayaking and scuba diving** can easily occupy your time. An afternoon sailing from bay to bay on classic sailboat the Tradition or a power boat adventure from Funtime Charters are just two types of cruise options to seek out.

2 Buy some art

When was the last time you bought a souvenir that didn't just end up in a drawer? **Many choice craft boutiques and galleries dot the streets of The Valley and the West End.** Cheddie Richardson's studio in Cove Bay will net you arresting driftwood pieces, stone sculptures and bronze casts, all nature-inspired. And the handmade jewellery, bright ceramics and sensual mahogany carvings at the Devonish Art Gallery are equally amazing.

3 Have the lobster

Earmark Wednesday or Sunday for lunch on Scilly Cay, a tiny islet off Shoal Bay, reachable by a free, 10-minute boat ride. Here you'll find a charming and rustic (if pricey) restaurant run by Sandra and Eudoxie "Gorgeous" Wallace, who whip up **Anguilla's best rum punch, plus platters of barbecued lobster, snapper and chicken.** Spend the rest of the afternoon frolicking in the shallow waters and working on your tan.

4 Go A-list for sunset

Sunset at the Sunset Lounge couldn't be more special. People flock to this elegant waterfront bar in the Viceroy Anguilla hotel at cocktail time to see how the other half lives and to prime the night with the signature jalapeño margarita. **This Kelly Wearstler-designed resort is stunning, especially the adjacent Cobà restaurant.** You can also hit the lounge later in the evening for a nightcap and a spot of jazz.

5 Get down

Live music is very much a part of the culture in Anguilla. Locals and tourists lap up reggae, jazz and R&B bands almost every night at one of many venues scattered around the island, including the Powerhouse, Johnno's Beach Stop and the Dunes Preserve, owned by music icon Bankie Banx. Other acts to seek out include Banx's son, cricket-champ-turned-reggae-star Omari Banks, Natalie Richardson, Da Movements, True Intentions and Sproka.

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NOT A TOURIST | A letter from Omar Mouallem in Tuscany

The perfect ruin

Canadians Jonathan Lawrence and Stephan Petasky are turning on tortuous roads in a rented Fiat, past central Tuscany's swooping pastures, rolling hills and tilled clay. At the end of a cypress-lined road, a 300 to 500-year-old sprawling property comes into view and Petasky, president of high-end vacation home developer Luxus, practically jumps out of the passenger seat.

"Whoa! *There's* a ruin for you," he says, staring at the dilapidated hilltop farmhouse with a half a roof and trees growing out the inside.

He estimates the former peasant property will cost €350,000 (more than half a million in Canadian dollars), but it will take another several million to turn it into something deserving of the Luxus brand. "That's where it all starts."

With Fulvio di Rosa, a renowned Italian engineer and restoration architect, Petasky recently restored Panico Padore, a super fixer-upper near Monteroni D'Arbia into a corporate retreat. Now he's looking for more.

Di Rosa and his partner soon pull up in a dusted green pickup. Di Rosa removes his sweater, knots it around his waist, and begins investigating the palatial farmhouse with a furrowed brow — first from afar, to assess the vista quality, then up close, running his fingers through massive cracks. It's nothing he can't handle.

Di Rosa's restored whole medieval hamlets, innumerable private properties and counts amongst his clients and friends Under the Tuscan Sun author Frances Mayes.

The 1997 chick-lit blockbuster didn't so much jumpstart the Italian restoration industry as set it to turbo-charge.

How many properties worth salvaging remain?

"In terms of a ruin that's authentic, has interesting architecture, has a view without problems like a 10,000 kilowatt pole?" he asks rhetorically. "Under 20 I would say."

This is one of them. Although one side has caved in, the high ceilings have great potential. There's a beautiful mix of stone and brick. A smaller separate barn that could be converted into a caretaker's suite.

Best of all, says di Rosa, "There's nothing obstructing the view. It's perfect."

Renowned restoration architect and engineer Fulvio di Rosa checks out the scene at a dilapidated, but stunning farmhouse in Italy. COURTESY OMAR MOUALLEM

metro SPORTS

Texas ace Yu Darvish threw 47 pitches at batting practice Thursday and is closing in on game action for the first time since elbow surgery last year

Red Wings go down without much fight

NHL PLAYOFFS

Lightning into second round thanks to Bishop's donut

GAME 5 In Tampa

1	0

Ben Bishop stopped 34 shots, Alex Killorn scored with less than two minutes remaining and the Tampa Bay Lightning advanced to the second round of the Stanley Cup playoffs with a 1-0 victory over the Detroit Red Wings on Thursday night.

Killorn's second winning goal of the series was set up by Ryan Callahan, who retrieved goalie Petr Mrazek's bad pass behind the Detroit net and centred the puck in the crease for Killorn's backhander at 18:17 of the third period.

Tampa Bay eliminated the Red Wings in the first round for the second straight year. Detroit pushed the defending Eastern Conference champions to seven games a year ago, but could only beat them once in five attempts this time, with Killorn, Tyler Johnson and Nikita Kucherov picking up the offensive slack for Tampa Bay with star Steven Stamkos injured.

Detroit only scored eight goals in the series, though not because of a lack of opportunities.

The Red Wings finished 1-for-25 on the power play, and their futility was never more evident than Thursday night, when they failed to even get a shot on goal during a 5-on-3 advantage early in the opening period.

The closest they came during that first power-play was Pavel Datsyuk hitting the post. The Lightning were fortunate again late in the period, when Detroit's Danny Dekeyser also hit the post before the puck glanced off Bishop's right arm.

Just as frustrating was an inability to crack Bishop in the second period, when the Tampa Bay goalie rejected Riley Sheahan, Darren Helm and Dylan Larkin on breakaways that could have snapped a scoreless tie.

Bishop stopped 14 shots in the second and 11 more in the third, two in the closing seconds with Detroit on its fourth power play of the night. Mrazek wasn't tested as often but his teammates played a hand in that by limiting the line of Johnson, Kucherov and Killorn to a combined two shots heading into the final period. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ben Bishop and Pavel Datsyuk share a laugh after what could have been The Magic Man's last NHL game.

CHRIS O'MEARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

Players will be drug tested in 2016

There will be drug testing this season in the CFL.

The league and the CFL Players' Association jointly announced Thursday expanded testing for performance-enhancing drugs will take place in 2016. There was no drug testing last year after the CFL severed its partnership with the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sports, which had conducted the tests.

The partnership was rekindled this off-season with the CCES resuming its role.

Under terms of the new agreement, the number of tests conducted will be equal to 100 per cent of the players in the league. But because testing will be random, it's possible some players will be tested twice while others won't be tested at all.

The deal also recognizes sanctions from Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS), the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), National Football League (NFL) and other World Anti-Doping Association tested sports.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4

While a third strike nets a player a one-year suspension, those testing positive for a fourth time will receive a lifetime ban.

IN BRIEF

DeRozan arrives in Indiana

DeMar DeRozan rediscovered his all-star form, and the Toronto Raptors took control of their playoff series against the Indiana Pacers on Thursday.

DeRozan and Kyle Lowry scored 21 points apiece to lift the Raptors 101-85 over Indiana for a 2-1 series lead in the opening round of the post-season.

DeMarre Carroll chipped in with 17 points, and was spectacular in stifling Pacers star Paul George, who had 25 points for Indiana. Cory Joseph had 10 points off the bench.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Another no-no for Cubs ace right-hander Arrieta

Jake Arrieta of the Chicago Cubs pitched his second no-hitter in a span of 11 regular-season starts, shutting down the Cincinnati Reds in a 16-0 rout Thursday night.

The reigning NL Cy Young winner threw the first no-hitter of the Major League Baseball season.

Arrieta (4-0) struck out six, walked four and allowed only six balls hit out of the infield. He threw 119 pitches, retiring Eugenio Suarez on a routine flyball to right field to end it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McGregor: I'm not retiring

UFC

Irishman pulls no punches over promotional demands

UFC fans, rejoice. Conor McGregor is not retired.

He's even willing to resume his spot in the main event at UFC 200.

The mixed martial arts superstar is simply fed up with the gruelling promotional demands that come with being a pay-per-view star. The 27-year-old fighter known for his over-the-top personality says "I can not dance for you this time."

McGregor posted on Facebook Thursday that he needed to focus on himself and not the massive hype that accompanies his megafights.

"I have become lost in the game of promotion and forgot about the art of fighting," McGregor said in the nearly 650-word statement also posted to Twitter, instantly drawing thousands of shares, retweets and comments from fans.

"For USADA and for the UFC and my contract stipulations - I AM NOT RETIRED," McGregor said.

McGregor has been training for a rematch against Nate Diaz at UFC 200 in July. He lost to Diaz in March, ending a 15-fight winning streak in which he surprised many fans by fighting 25 pounds above his usual weight of 145 pounds, where he holds a title belt. The rematch was set to be fought at 170 pounds.

McGregor stirred fans this week with a tweet saying he had decided to retire young. That prompted UFC president Dana White to respond by saying McGregor had been pulled from UFC 200 because of the dispute over promotional appearances. White said McGregor was refusing to travel to Las Vegas for promotions ahead of another UFC card this weekend.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Conor McGregor
L.E. BASKOW/LAS VEGAS SUN VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Canada advances to semis at U18 hockey championship

Tyson Jost scored three goals and set up two more as Canada's men's hockey team downed Switzerland 9-1 in quarter-final action at the under-18 world championship on Thursday.

Brett Howden had two goals and three assists for the Canadians, Michael McLeod scored twice and David Quenneville and Cameron Morrison rounded out the attack with a goal and an assist each. Evan Fitzpatrick stopped 25 shots for the win.

Canada will play the winner of the Sweden-Slovakia quarter-final in Saturday's semifinal game.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Perfect round robin at mixed curling worlds

Canada closed out round-robin play at the world mixed doubles curling championship on Thursday by dumping Australia 13-1 in Karlstad, Sweden.

The Saskatoon duo of Dustin Kalthoff and Marliese Kasner opened with a deuce and closed out the game with a five-point seventh end. Canada won all six round-robin games to lock up first place in Group D.

The combined results of the 2016 and 2017 world mixed doubles events will decide the seven teams that will join host South Korea at the 2018 Pyeongchang Games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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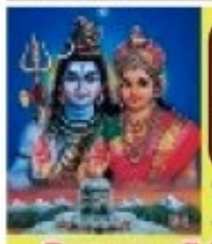

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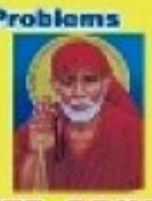

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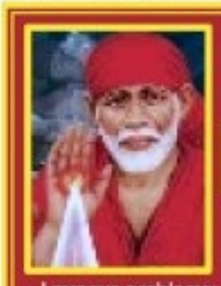

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS ON PAGE 60

RECIPE Coconut Banana Pancakes

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Celebrate the end of the week with a pancake equivalent of a pina colada.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes

Ingredients
- 1/2 cup spelt flour
- 1/4 cup ground almonds
- 1/4 unsweetened, shredded coconut
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- pinch of salt
- 2 ripe bananas
- 1/2 cup almond milk
- 1/3 cup light coconut milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon agave nectar or maple syrup
- butter for pan

Directions

1. In a mixing bowl, combine the flour, ground almonds, coconut, cinnamon, baking powder and salt.

2. Place one banana, coconut and almond milks, vanilla and syrup in a blender and blend until smooth. Add the milk mixture to the dry ingredients and stir until combined.

3. In a large skillet over medium heat, melt a small pat of butter and swirl it around. Then spoon the pancake mixture into the pan, allowing room for the pancakes to spread. Cook the pancakes for 2 to 3 minutes or until the mix bubble on the top. Flip the pancakes and allow to cook for another minute or two.

4. Remove the pancakes from the pan and keep warm. Top with with the other banana, sliced and serve with syrup.

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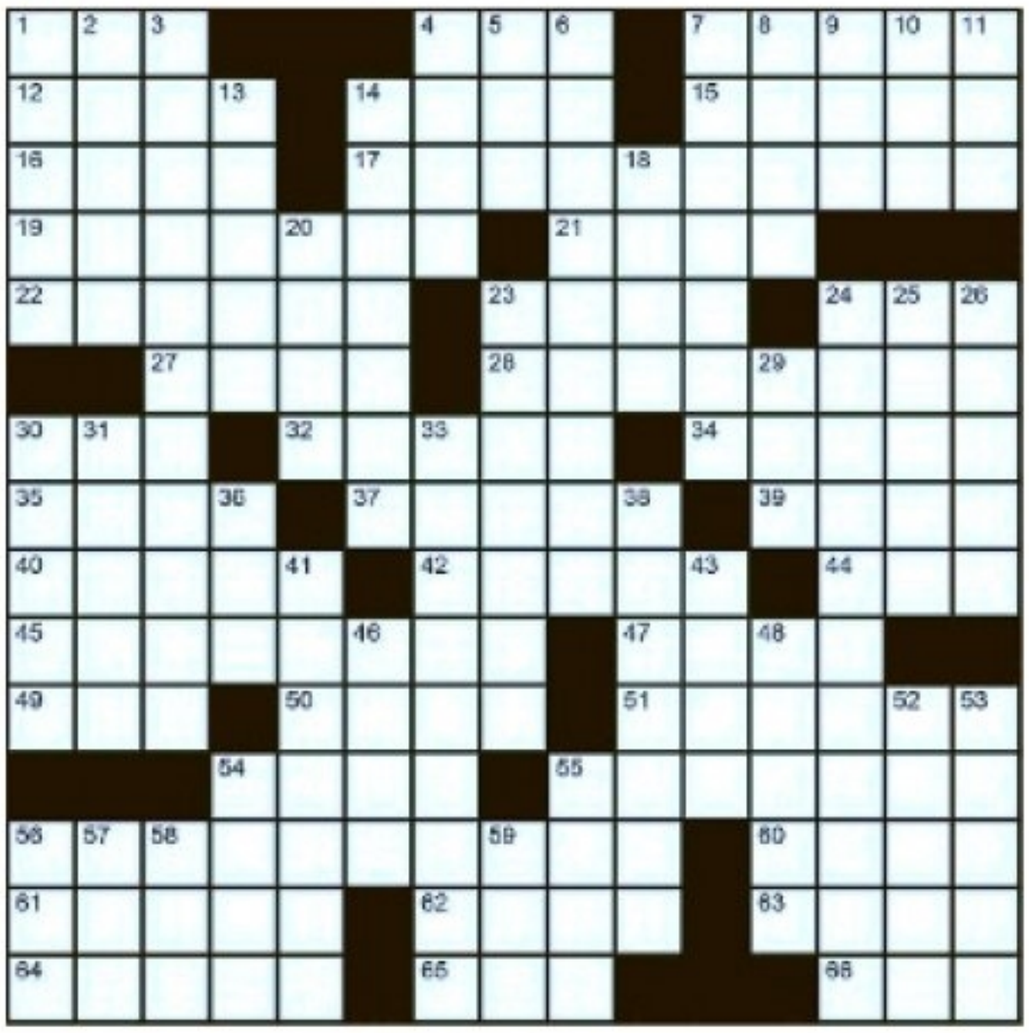
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Half man/half dog like John Candy's character Barf in "Spaceballs" (1987)
4. Theatrical monogram
7. Shopping __
12. Grads-to-be [abbr.]
14. Valley where David slew Goliath
15. "Bolero" composer
16. 1906-founded sports org.
17. Bosses, collectively
19. Wrapped
21. NBC host Hoda
22. "Journey to the __ of the Earth" (2008)
23. Video game maker
24. Angelina Jolie movie
27. 'Star Wars' character
28. What something cut in half consists of: 2 wds.
30. Tips, tiny-ly
32. Ms. Woodard
34. Web letter
35. Pet food brand
37. "__ for Murder" (1954)
39. AD's 'A'
40. Former
42. Farm structures
44. Bird that's a thief
45. One-of-some in the finished basement's ceiling
47. Pushers-catching cop
49. 'Ghoul' suffix
50. Hostile-to-Hobbits humanoids
51. Ryan and Tatum of "Paper Moon" (1973)
54. "__ Crazy" (1980)
55. k.d. lang album
56. 1851: __ Beaver (Canada's first postage stamp)
60. Eagles song: "__' Eyes"
61. FOX News anchor Bret
62. Village dubbed 'A Little Bit of Holland in Saskatchewan'
63. Fair
64. "Funkytown" by __, Inc.
65. Initials-sharers of John Travolta's actress wife
66. Bible: Relative of Saul

DOWN
1. Cable news network
2. Timely way to deliver theatrical lines: 2 wds.
3. Crunchy apple: 2 wds.
4. Happy
5. Shut out
6. '__ Before Serving' (Orange juice carton message)
7. Record before broadcasting
8. Farm animal
9. Rd. type
10. Bush's "Everything __"
11. Computer key
13. "...__ __ say..." = "...alas..."
14. __ green
18. Belinda Carlisle, band-style
20. Mother of Helen of Troy
23. British band, Dire __
24. Song by Canadian band Timber Timbre, quite an attraction in Arizona: 2 wds.
25. Singer Ms. Turner's autobiography: 2 wds.
26. "It must be __ __ news day."
29. Music honour, e.g.
30. Miss Longstocking
31. Poi ingredients
33. __ __ Provincial Park, in Calgary
36. Roman sun god
38. Cher, Madonna, Beyonce or Sting
41. Rampage participants
43. Crooned
46. Film set job
48. Careens
52. "The Good Earth" (1937) Oscar-winning actress Ms. Rainer
53. Sir, in Spain
54. Ooze
55. 'Tsar' suffix (Russian empresses)
56. Li'l piece of furniture to eat at
57. Yes, in Japan
58. Tear
59. Particular pol. party

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You will seek excitement today, because you crave something different! New romance, along with new pleasures and diversions, will delight you.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You feel restless today. Some of you will dabble in a secret love affair. Others will explore a secret business that could bring them more money in the future.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You might make a new friend today; if so, this person will be unusual and exciting. Alternatively, some of you will be surprised at something that an existing friend might say or do. It's not a boring day!

Cancer June 22 - July 23
A surprise flirtation with your boss or someone in a position of authority might catch you off-guard today. Others will be delighted by unexpected praise or even a raise.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
A sudden chance to travel will drop into your lap today. However, existing travel plans might change. Whatever happens, you will expand your horizons.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Gifts, goodies and favors from others will come your way today. Keep your pockets open and just say, "Thank you!" Ka-ching!

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You might have an unexpected disruption to an existing relationship with a friend or partner. (Be careful that you don't stir the pot just because you can.)

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
An unexpected raise or praise from a boss might delight you today. Travel for pleasure suddenly might arise because something will please you at work.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Romance might sweep you off your feet today, because this is a classic day for love at first sight. Others suddenly might have a chance to go on vacation. Yay!

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You might buy something high-tech for your home today. You also might buy modern art. A spontaneous party might occur. Like, wow!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Surprise news or an opportunity to meet new people and see new places will make this an exciting day for you. Stay flexible and light on your feet!

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You might see new ways to earn money today. If so, you will have to act quickly, because this window of opportunity is brief. You might want to buy something.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

3		1	5		4	6		8
		9				4		
5	6						2	3
1				7				5
			9	5	8			
6				1				2
8	3						6	9
		6				2		
9		5	3		2	8		1

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STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

God distinguishes those who walk with Him; and walking with God entails that you enter into an intimate heart relationship with Him through faith in His Son, Jesus. Enoch was an example of a man who stood out in his generation. While others only got married, had children and died. "Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him" *(Genesis 5:24)*. Make up your mind today to give your life to Christ and have an opportunity to walk with God.

For prayers and counseling call the pastor at 403.970.5000

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